

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support putting Article 12 on the ballot this year?

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Lucky students get field trips to premieres of "Hunger Games."

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GOOD HOUSEKEEPING



Little changes can make a big difference to improve a home's curb appeal.

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Lindsay Lohan's days as a defendant could be over—if she can behave herself.

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Fitia! removes DPL, DPW chiefs

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitia! has asked for and received the resignation letters of Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta and Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan, two of his Cabinet members who have remained with the Covenant Party instead of following him to the Republican Party last year.



Babauta

resignation Thursday afternoon.

"I have always believed that in order to

Babauta is one of the advisers for the Covenant Party and its campaign manager, while Sablan is the party's second vice chairman.

Fitia! asked Babauta and Sablan to turn in their

fully achieve my administration's goals and objective, it is important to ensure that members of my Cabinet share the same principle as well. In this regard I would like to thank you for your service and contribution as secretary. I further seek cooperation that you submit a courtesy resignation to my office no later than the close of business tomorrow," Fitia! said in separate letters to the DPL and DPW secretaries.

See FITIAL on Page 4

\$102M budget calls for reorganization and cuts

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitia! submitted his fiscal year 2013 proposed budget of \$102 million to the Legislature late yesterday afternoon, urging lawmakers to pass revenue-generating measures such as a \$15 fee for transient hotel customers to help lift the 16-hour work cuts among most government employees.

Fitia! said the government needs almost \$7 million to lift the austerity measures in fiscal year 2013.

Fiscal year 2013 runs from Oct. 1, 2012 to Sept. 30, 2013.

Although not in his budget transmittal, the governor has been urging lawmakers to support an initiative to allow the establishment of a casino industry on Saipan and allow fee simple sale of public lands occupied by hotels and golf courses.

The gross budgetary resources for fiscal year 2013 total \$120.671 million.

Of this amount, \$102 million is the net available resources for government operations, which is the same as the fiscal year 2012 estimated net resources.

The rest is for debt service appropriations, earmarked funds and other legal set-asides.

Fitia!, in his budget transmittal to House Speaker

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Honeymooners' vacation turns into a nightmare

» 11 QQ Rental cars burglarized since last year; not one suspect arrested

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Two Chinese couples' honeymoon on Saipan turned into a nightmarish experience when they lost their money, passports, and other items when their rented car was burglarized yesterday afternoon at Ladder Beach.

"We feel very bad. It's like a night-

mare. We will never forget this experience. I'm afraid we will not come here again," Zhong Jingya, 27, a banker, told *Saipan Tribune*.

Jingya and her husband Zhao Yi, 29, a pilot with China Southern Airline, lost a new Chanel handbag worth \$3,000, a Gucci wallet, \$300 cash, two credit cards, two passports, and a digital camera.

See NIGHTMARE on Page 4

QQ Car Rental president James Han, right, points to the shattered window of his vehicle that was rented by four Chinese honeymooners who became victims of a burglary at Ladder Beach yesterday afternoon.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



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TAGA SPORTS APRIL - JUNE 2012 EDITION

Local

IN REJECTING SAIPAN CASINO BILLS

Lang: Torres, Manglona have hidden political agenda

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) accused Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) on Thursday of opposing measures to legalize casino gaming on Saipan to boost their plans to run as governor and lieutenant governor in 2014—an accusation both senators described as “false,” “outrageous” and “disturbing.”

Froilan, whose casino bill was killed by the Senate in 2010, claimed that the two senators don’t want the CNMI economy to improve within the next two years and make the Fitial administration look bad, hence their opposition to Saipan casino bills.

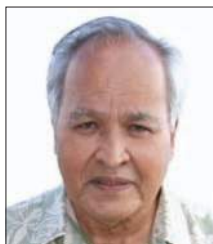
“That’s outrageous,” Manglona told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at his office.

“The Senate has been pushing for ways to help save the Retirement Fund, the hospital, improve food stamp and other critical areas, and to make any implication that the reason why we’re not supporting casinos is tied to politics is ridiculous.”

Manglona said he doesn’t have any plan to run for lieutenant governor, and would want to continue serving as a senator.

He reiterated that there are 99 other things on the table and the governor keeps on focusing on establishing a casino industry on Saipan. The Fitial administration says the casino initiative and a fee simple initiative will help save the Fund, restore 80 work hours, and a host of financial problems.

Torres, for his part, said he does not appreciate Tenorio making false accusations



Tenorio



Manglona



Torres

about him or any other senator. He said he wants to focus on issues more critical than addressing accusations.

Torres said that thinking about 2014 is far from being his priority today.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said Tenorio’s claims “may be right.”

“Governor Fitial also does not understand why the senators refuse to make decisions that will help not just the economy, but the Retirement Fund as well,” he said.

Tenorio also said the Fitial

administration-backed casino initiative has flaws and problems he wishes could be corrected. He had planned to launch his own Saipan casino initiative but decided to hold back on this.

“Every voter should ask, ‘what’s in it for me?’ when they sign that petition,” Froilan said, adding that a \$5 million license fee and revenues will

not be enough to restore 80 work hours biweekly and help the NMI Retirement Fund.

Tenorio also asked why the governor should be authorized to appoint three of the five Saipan casino commissioners when on Rota and Tinian, the mayors are the ones that appoint all the commissioners.

But Demapan said the initiative is aimed at benefiting the entire municipality of Saipan because the governor views the introduction of a casino industry as an opportunity to realize much needed revenue.

As to the appointment of commissioners, he said this wasn’t something that was single-handedly decided by the administration.

“The initiative was a collaborative effort by the House leadership and supported by the Fitial administration. That being said, the provisions of the initiative were deliberated by members of the leadership for quite some time. At no point during the preparation of the initiative did any member raise the issue of appointing commissioners. The bottom line here is that the administration is backing the casino initiative because the governor wants to see government employees return to 80-hour workweek and more importantly, to help the Retirement Fund. The appointment of commissioners is just an administrative function,” he said.

CUC preparing for typhoon season

» 11 emergency power disruptions, outages in March

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is now busy preparing for the typhoon season, kicking off with an order of \$1.15 million worth of materials for its power plants, according to executive director Abe Utu Malae yesterday.

In March alone, CUC recorded 11 emergency power disruptions and two scheduled outages on five feeders on Saipan, Malae said. These emergency outages ranged from just a few seconds to two hours.

According to him, even the most reliable of its feeders—Feeder 7 on the northern part of the island—sustained two disruptions of 27 minutes and 1 hour and 54 minutes this month.

A CUC report disclosed that majority of these power outages is related to power distribution hardware failures in the field.

Malae said that people expect a high level of reliability in the power system. To achieve it, routine maintenance and replacement system must be in place and followed.

“CUC does have a routine maintenance system in place but in the month of March, the hardware failures were occurring faster than is acceptable and the inventory dwindled away. In the first 30 days of March, there were 11 emergency power disruptions and two scheduled outages on five of eight feeders on Saipan,” he said.

Malae disclosed that power distribution is the most vulnerable of all utility services because the poles, transformers, conductors, switches, and other hardware are directly exposed

to the elements.

He said CUC placed an order for about \$1.15 million worth of materials that include parts for the power plant that are critical for the routine operation and maintenance of the power system as well as to prepare for the typhoon season.

“Much is made of the need for cash to pay the oil and lubricating oil suppliers but these critical materials are just as important. Without them readily available, the power disruptions would become frequent and long. If a major storm would damage the power system, there would not be enough transformers to replace failed ones, for instance,” he explained.



Malae

The CUC chief said they hope to have enough cash to pay for the orders.

“CUC is working diligently to collect payments from customers, especially the largest ones. We are mindful of the economic struggles customers are facing, but a failing power system is just not an option. We saw what it was like in 2008 when the rolling blackouts occurred,” added Malae.

He said CUC is counting on its collections from customers but admitted encountering some problems, especially because of the financial problems faced by its largest customers, the Commonwealth Health Center and the Public School System.

“As a result, we are applying to the Office of Insular Affairs for help,” he added.

Judge orders detention of Miah

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has ordered the detention of Mohammad Jahangir Miah who is facing new charges for his alleged involvement in a scheme of cashing fraudulent CNMI tax refund checks.

In an order issued Thursday, Manglona determined that there is a serious risk that Miah will not appear in court hearings.

There is also a serious risk that Miah will endanger the safety of another person or the community, particularly prospective witnesses, including the “cooperating source,” Manglona said.

The judge remanded Miah to the custody of the attorney general or a designated representative for confinement at a corrections facility.

On Thursday, the U.S. government and Miah’s new court-appointed counsel, Co-

lin Thompson, agreed to the postponement of a hearing scheduled that day on the prosecution’s motion concerning a breach of plea agreement issue.

The U.S. government filed the motion asking the court to declare Miah in breach of a plea agreement that he entered in connection with the driver’s license scam case.

On Aug. 19, 2011, Miah, one of the five suspects in a driver’s license scam at the Department of Public Safety, pleaded guilty in federal court to a count of conspiring to unlawfully produce and transfer identification documents. He was placed on home confinement pending his sentencing.

Last week, FBI agents arrested Miah after the U.S. government filed a criminal complaint charging him with conspiracy to commit bank fraud. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



CRUISE LINER VISITOR

A female passenger of *Asuka II*, Japan’s largest cruise ship, is seen walking on her way back to the 790-foot-long vessel during its visit to Saipan last March 26.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Judge dismisses woman’s criminal case

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph M. Camacho has dismissed a criminal case filed against a woman who, while drunk, allegedly assaulted a man at her house in Garapan.

Camacho on Thursday dismissed without prejudice the criminal case charging Rowena A. Urumelog with assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

Dismissal without prejudice means the government is allowed to re-file a new case on the same claim in the future.

Camacho dismissed the case after the Office of the Attorney General asked the court to drop the case as the alleged victim and the only other witness have moved to Hawaii.

Without the alleged victim

and the witness, the government cannot prove Urumelog’s guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, said government lawyer Darren Robinson.

“Should the victim and witness return, the Commonwealth may resume prosecution,” Robinson said.

Police detective Anthony Alepuyo stated in his report that a police officer responded to Urumelog’s residence in the afternoon of Jan. 28, 2012, after receiving a call about a fight.

Alepuyo said investigation showed that Urumelog had arrived home drunk and began shouting profanities at everyone in the house.

Ryan Cavalear told Urumelog to stop shouting because there are children in the house

and that his wife is pregnant.

Urumelog allegedly started throwing clothes around, messing up the living room.

When Cavalear tried to call the police, Urumelog allegedly pushed him and then picked up a rock. Cavalear and Urumelog struggled for possession of the rock. After Cavalear managed to get the rock, he called the police.

When the incident happened, Urumelog was still waiting for her sentencing in federal court after being convicted of immigration document fraud.

Last Dec. 7, a federal jury found the 42-year-old Urumelog guilty of lying in her petition for her second husband, a Bangladeshi national. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Manta Ray JROTC team off to Kentucky for nationals

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The 16-member group of the Saipan Southern High School JROTC Team flew to Louisville, Kentucky, on Tuesday to represent the CNMI and the region in the U.S. Army Cadet Command JROTC National Drill Championship.

The Manta Ray cadets were named champions of the 8th Brigade Cadet Command Inaugural Drill Meet for the Western Region that was held in California in February.

SSHS vice principal Jocelyn Manibusan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the group is being accompanied by principal Jesse Tudela and the school's army instructors, Leonardo Rabago and Joaquin Kiyoshi. Also joining the trip is Board of Education member Lucy Blanco-Maratita.

An all-expense paid trip by the U.S. Army, the CNMI team is expected to demonstrate their skills in drill exhibitions against teams from across the nation. Competition proper will occur in Louisville on Sunday, Saipan time.

Like their successful performance in the competition in California, Manibusan is confident that the Manta Ray group will continue to bring honor to the Commonwealth.

The SSHS team was among the three drill teams that represented PSS and the Western Pacific region during last month's regional contest. Others in the region are Guam, South Korea, and Japan.

Manibusan said this is the first time that a CNMI JROTC Team will participate at the national level. The group is scheduled to return on Tuesday night.

The JROTC program has rapidly grown into one of the

most popular and appreciated programs in the CNMI's educational system. Each year, the system has noted significant growth in the program that is offered at five secondary schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Besides its JROTC Team, SSHS will also send in August its popular Manta Ray Band to the Summer Olympics in London to perform. Today, Manibusan said the group's Golf

Tournament Fundraiser will kick off at 6am at the Coral Ocean Point. The school targets to raise additional funds for their upcoming trip.

A 25-member team from the SSHS was also recently selected as the CNMI's delegates to the national congressional mock trial competition to be held in Washington, D.C. on April 27.

Judge puts off decision on bail change for sex abuse suspect

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has refused to issue a final ruling in the second motion to modify the bail being asked by a man who is charged with sexually abusing a 12-year-old girl on Tinian since she was 8 or 9 years old.

Wiseman said the bail modification being asked by John Ibanez Carreon, 41, will continue to be under advisement until the court receives further information about some concerns.

The judge noted is that it is necessary that all possible protections are in place to ensure that Carreon will not have any contact with children under 18 years old and that there is absolutely no direct or indirect contact with the alleged victim.

"This leads the court to its concern of the apartment building proposed for [Carreon's] residence with the proposed third-party custodian," Wiseman said.

Before the court can approve the place where Carreon will stay with his third-party custodian, Wiseman said that he would need an attorney's written certification that there

are no minors living in the building.

The judge found it strange that the third-party custodian will be renting the apartment for what appears to be the sole purpose of accommodating his role as a custodian.

Wiseman also noted another concern—that of security.

"The bail is \$50,000, which the court deems necessary in view of the egregiousness of the charged offenses, the possible danger to the community, a possible flight risk and other factors," Wiseman said.

Although Carreon proposes a 10 percent deposit of \$5,000, Wiseman said there is still a balance of \$45,000, which the court will require to be secured in a manner to show that in the event the bail is forfeited, the court will not be left with an empty bag and that the court has some realistic or viable chance to actually collect the \$45,000.

Police arrested Carreon on Tinian last Jan. 25 after a concerned citizen reportedly called Tinian police two days earlier about a sexual abuse victim who wanted to die. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



SESSION BREAK

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), left, gestures as he discusses a Saipan casino initiative with fellow members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation during a session break on Wednesday. In photo are, from left, Tenorio, Sen. Luis Crisostimo (Ind-Saipan), Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), and House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan).

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

DCCA: Tourism development and casino will lower number of food stamp clients

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao believes that once the ailing tourism industry picks up and people support the establishment of a casino industry on Saipan, the number of people lining up for food stamps will start to decrease.

This fiscal year, the program has over 10,000 beneficiaries on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, he said, a 4.6 percent increase over that of fiscal year 2011. He blames the increase on the implementation of work-hour cuts in government and austerity measures in private businesses.

Faisao said the food stamp program is allocated about \$13.148 million a year, with \$12.148 million going to ben-

efits and \$1 million for the program's operation and personnel. Despite the increase in the number of food stamp clients, Faisao said the department did not reduce the subsidy provided to eligible clients.

When asked how casino and tourism developments will help mitigate the continuous increase in food stamp clients, Faisao pointed out the job opportunities these could provide to people. Creating additional and new revenues for the government, he added, would also result in the lifting of the work-hour cuts in government.

Also known as the Nutrition Assistance Program, the food stamp program was created to promote the general welfare of CNMI residents and maintain their well-being by raising the levels of nutrition among

low-income, zero-income, and needy families and individuals. The size of a family's benefit is based on income and certain expenses. The poverty level is higher for bigger families and lower for smaller families. The program is federally funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The administration earlier expressed its opposition to the inclusion of the CNMI in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, which may increase the current food stamp benefits of \$12 million to \$24 million, due to the required local matching requirement.

Faisao said the national food stamp program will require the CNMI government to use a cost-reimbursement procedure and require strict adherence to cost-matching share.

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Navy, Air Force training on FDM

Santa Rita, Guam—The U.S. Navy and Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

- April 2-6 from 6 a.m.-10 p.m.
- April 7 from 6 a.m.-11 p.m.

- April 9-12 from 6 a.m.-11 p.m.
 - April 13 from 6 a.m.-1 p.m.
- The public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates in-

dicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. *(USN)*

BUDGET

From Page 1

Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), said the administration’s ultimate goal is to maintain fiscal responsibility and sustainability.

“Our approach to this proposal is to minimize adverse impacts to service levels through greater efficiency, operational changes, and other badly needed systemic changes,” he told the Cabrera and Manglona.

Fitial said departments and activities submitted budget proposals that were \$85 million more than the available resources.

“Mindful of the need to maintain a balanced budget that’s required under the Constitution, only highly critical activities were considered in this proposal,” he said.

Austerity measures

Fitial’s budget submission includes the following considerations:

1. Austerity measures through reduced work hours equivalent to 16 hours per pay period or 20 percent of payroll;

2. Exemption of the Department of Public Safety’s and the Department of Corrections’ officers from austerity when scheduled and necessary;
3. Imposition of paid legal holidays with application of leave;
4. Removal of non-essential vacant positions;
5. Reorganization and elimination of two divisions within the Department of Public Works (the Operations and Maintenance Division, and the Transportation, Auto and Heavy Equipment Division, to be consolidated into the Roads and Grounds Division); and
6. Contribution of \$2.25 million as subsidy to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Cuts and increases

The governor’s proposal gives \$32.4 million to the Executive Branch, an increase of \$4.1 million from the current year’s \$28.3 million.

His budget proposal for the Judiciary remains the same at \$4 million.

Fitial gave the Legislature \$5.1 million, a decrease from the current year’s \$5.4 million.

The governor’s proposed budget for Rota is over \$4.3 million, which is lower by over \$226,655 than the current

fiscal year’s more than \$4.5 million.

Rota Finance director Stacey Atalig earlier said the budget cut is only some \$180,000. Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola, according to Atalig, has been disappointed with the budget cut.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the Legislature is expected to carefully review the governor’s budget proposal.

Fitial slightly cut Tinian’s budget by \$31,959—from the current \$4.54 million to \$4.51 million.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz had said Tinian got almost the same amount, after a closed-door meeting between the governor and the mayors of the four islands.

The governor proposed \$1.088 million for Saipan, a slight increase of some \$9,000 from the current year’s \$1,079,587.

Fitial also proposed \$275,094 for the Northern Islands, a decrease of \$24,304 from the current fiscal year.

“Although the net estimate remains at \$102 million, we anticipate seeing a gradual growth in our tourism industry in the first quarter of fiscal year 2013 with the planned inauguration of the proposed ‘Saipan Air’ in late summer of this year,” Fitial said.

FITIAL

From Page 1

Sablan and Babauta separately confirmed turning in their resignation letters to the governor’s office yesterday.

“I respect the governor’s request. I turned in my resignation. The governor likes his Cabinet members to be under the same principles. I am grateful that the governor gave me the opportunity to serve the administration and the people of the Commonwealth,” Babauta, a long-time ally of the governor, told *Saipan Tribune*.

Babauta said his resignation takes effect April 2, while Sablan said that his was effective yesterday, March 30.

Sablan hopes that Department of Public Works employees and officials will continue the hard work they have put in to move DPW projects forward.

“I understand the governor’s decision to ask me to resign. I know it’s politics. But there is no bitterness on my part. The governor has authority to remove his Cabinet members,” said Sablan, who has been DPW secretary for some six years.

Babauta and Sablan also thanked their colleagues, employees, and the community they have served.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the governor is currently assessing his Cabinet organization as part of his midterm review of his second term in office.

“In this regard, Governor Fitial strongly believes that in order for any chief executive to effectively carry out his administration’s goals and objectives, it is important to ensure that executive appointees of his Cabinet also share the same principles. The same Cabinet assessment is widely practiced by the United States president and other state governors,” Demapan said.

‘Step aside’

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), upon hearing the news, reiterated his call for Fitial to step aside for choosing “politics over public interest and public service” when he removed Cabinet members whom he believes are doing a good job of serving the CNMI.

Manglona repeated his call for Fitial to allow Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos to take over the government.

“Again, here’s Governor Fitial wearing his Republican hat, negatively affecting how the government is run. If he is not going to lead us into economic recovery, I again respectfully ask the governor to step aside and let Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos to take over as governor. Why else did he remove Mr. Babauta and Mr. Sablan? Politics. But what about the interest of the public?” said Manglona.

He added that “this is a sad day” for the Commonwealth, referring to the governor’s decision to remove his non-Republican Cabinet members.

Had the two didn’t turn in their resignation, Manglona said they will be terminated anyway. He said the governor asking Babauta and Sablan to turn in their resignation letters is in essence removing them from their posts.

The governor has the power to hire and fire his Cabinet appointees.

The press secretary said “removal is the not the appropriate term here.”

“As I understand it, the governor has asked them to tender their resignation on the premise that he believes these two Cabinet members no longer share the same principles. Every chief executive appoints Cabinet members who they believe can best carry out the administration’s goals and objectives. There is no reason that Governor Fitial should be an ex-

ception to this,” Demapan said.

Demapan cited as an example Guam Gov. Ed Calvo who made changes to his Cabinet earlier this year and “no member of the Guam Legislature called for him to step aside.”

“Governor Fitial does not dictate who Senator Manglona wishes to hire, and expects the same from him,” the press secretary added.

Plans

As Covenant Party campaign manager, Babauta said he will help Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos—now the party’s titular head—to ensure that their candidates for the Senate and House of Representatives will win in the midterm elections on Nov. 6.

Babauta served DPL for two years and one month. He assumed the post in February 2010.

He served at the Legislature for 20 years, 16 years of those as an elected member of the House including as speaker. He spent the first four years as staffer for the late former speaker Ben M. Sablan during the 4th Legislature.

When asked whether he will run again for elected office in November, he said at this time he will focus on being a campaign manager for the Covenant Party.

He said he has sent emails to his division directors at DPL, thanking them for the opportunity to work with them in the past 25 months,

“There’s a familial atmosphere at DPL. When I became secretary, they welcomed me and put me at ease. I will miss them the most,” he added.

Fitial asked for Babauta and Sablan’s resignation five days after the Covenant Party celebrated the 36th anniversary of Covenant Day. The party also named some of their candidates for the Nov. 6 polls and their endorsement of Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan’s (Ind-

NIGHTMARE

From Page 1

Song Xiao Fang, 28, a businesswoman, and her husband Zhang You Cheng, 27, a salesman, lost a handbag, a wallet, a cell phone, two credit cards, \$500 cash, two passports, and a digital camera.

Jingya said that they rented a 2009 Suzuki vehicle and went sightseeing at Mt. Tapochao before proceeding to Ladder Beach.

At Ladder Beach, the couples left their bags inside the car. After locking the doors, the group descended the stairs leading to the beach.

As they were going down the stairs, they noticed a white or gray Nissan SUV or Toyota Rav4 arrive at the parking lot but they did not see anyone go down the stairs.

After taking pictures at the beach for 20 minutes, the couples went back to their vehicle and were surprised to find the left rear window smashed in and their items stolen.

Jingya immediately called 911, their tour agency, and QQ Car Rental. A police officer came after 15 to 20 minutes.

Jingya and her best friend, Ms. Fang, got married early this year in Beijing. The two arranged to have their honeymoon with their husbands on Saipan, which they saw on the Internet. Jingya said they learned that Saipan has a nice environment, prices are affordable, and it’s just a short hop from Beijing.

The four arrived on Saipan Tuesday

midnight and stayed at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. They are supposed to return to Beijing tomorrow, Sunday.

“We didn’t think that this would happen,” Jingya said, adding that they like the island because of its nice weather and beautiful ocean and beaches.

The couples appeal to anyone to help them get back their items, particularly their passports by turning them over to the Hyatt so they could go back home.

James Han, president of QQ Car Rental, expressed disappointment and frustration that these burglary incidents remain unabated.

“These tourists just came here to spend honeymoon. Then suddenly they become victims of burglars. These tourists will write their experience on the Internet,” Han said.

He said he has to help the honeymooners because now they don’t have money, credit cards, and passports.

Since the Chinese government has no consular office in the CNMI, Han said it’s very hard to get new passports. The Chinese government’s office covering the CNMI is based in Los Angeles, California.

Han said the tourists could use police reports to fly back to China, but obtaining police reports at the Department of Public Safety will also take time.

This is the fourth vehicle owned by QQ that was burglarized this year. Last year, six to seven QQ vehicles were also burglarized.

Han said police never solved or made any arrests in these burglaries.

Manglona asked.

The Senate president said it is about time the House of Representatives “make a difference” and be independent of the Executive Branch. The House leadership is aligned with the governor.

“The House can make a difference and become independent. During these hard times, they should step up. I challenge the House to start making their own decisions and work with the Senate to move the economy forward. If the governor does not want a certain law to be passed, the Legislature has the power to override. Nothing is stopping the Legislature to do what they think is best for the people,” Manglona added.

Fitial and Manglona have engaged in a word war that started when Fitial described Rota and Tinian senators “stupid” for rejecting another House bill that legalizes casino gambling on Saipan. Fitial said a casino industry on Saipan will generate much-needed revenues to move the economy forward.

The governor’s removal of Babauta and Sablan comes a few days after he placed Public Safety Commissioner Ray Mafnas on administrative leave. Mafnas is now being investigated for allegations of abuse of power, harassment, and interference with an ongoing murder investigation.

Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) said if anyone wants to talk about loyalty, Babauta and Sablan have been loyal Covenant Party members since Day 1.

“I don’t see a reason why they were relieved; they have been doing a great job despite the challenges that the CNMI faces. To those people who continue to believe in our philosophy and continue to do the right thing, stay strong and stay Covenant,” said Demapan, seeking re-election under the Covenant Party.

‘Politics over public interest’

The Senate president said Fitial made a “critical mistake” by removing his Cabinet secretaries at this juncture.

“It’s very clear that for the governor, politics takes over public interest. He should fire people based on their performance of their duties, and not because they did not follow him to his party. What message is he sending?”

Public Health is focus of emergency workforce reduction

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board chair Joaquin Torres disclosed to *Saipan Tri-*

bune that the ongoing emergency workforce reduction will spare critical personnel in

the public hospital because the measure's main focus is the Division of Public Health.

Corporation chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta had initially closed down some services such as dental offices to reduce staffing numbers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. A few personnel from the Community Guidance Center were not also spared.

Torres could not immediately say the exact number of personnel that will be let go but claimed that most will come from the Public Health section, which handles preventive programs.

The corporation currently spends \$800,000 for personnel per payroll. Torres wants to see this cut by \$250,000 every two weeks.

"The emergency reduction will not take effect in the hospital so our doctors, nurses, and other critical em-

ployees are spared for now. This is a tough decision but we have to make sure that we can only keep personnel we are able to pay," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Torres said the board will possibly meet next month to further discuss other issues at the corporation.

Public Health director Roxanne Diaz said that only locally funded employees under her division will be affected. She is currently on Rota conducting workshops for division personnel.

Saipan Tribune learned that it is the division's intention to transfer some locally funded employees to federally funded programs.

To date, more than 10 employees will be laid off starting April.

Leo Manibusan appointed to Merchant Marine Academy

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo said yesterday that Guam resident Leo Peter Kashihara Manibusan has been appointed to the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York.

Manibusan was nominated by Bordallo and competed with nominees nationwide for admission to the Merchant Marine Academy. The USMMA admission board selected Manibusan based on his academic achievements, extracurricular activities, and community involvement.

Manibusan is the son of Peter and Reiko Kashihara Manibusan of Mongmong, Guam, and is currently a senior at Father Dueñas Memorial School. He is a member of the National Honor Society, FDMS Student Council, and the FDMS Rugby team. In 2011, Manibusan received a scholarship from the Department of the Interior to represent FDMS in the Junior States of America Summer School at Stanford University. He also received the highest individual score in the University of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo presents Leo Manibusan with a certificate of congressional nomination to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy on Jan. 29, 2012. From left, Manibusan's father, Peter, Bordallo, Manibusan, and his mother, Reiko.

Guam's Chemistry Titration Competition. Manibusan is an active volunteer in the Nuestra Señora Delas Aguas Church and the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guam.

"I congratulate Leo and his proud parents, Peter and Reiko Manibusan, on his appointment to the United States Merchant Marine Academy," said Bordallo. "Leo is a highly

motivated student and is well prepared for the challenges of the Merchant Marine Academy. I wish him the best in his academic endeavors, and I am confident that he will succeed at the Merchant Marine Academy when he enters with the class of 2016." (PR)

Immanuel UMC congregation celebrates 20 years on Saipan

On Palm Sunday, April 5, 1992, a group of 10 gathered in the sanctuary of Immanuel Korean Methodist Church on Saipan for worship and fellowship, hosted by members of the Korean congregation and its pastor, the Rev. Myung Taek Lee. Barbara Grace Ripple, an ordained United Methodist minister and new resident of Saipan, had accepted Rev. Lee's suggestion to begin services in the English language, and had posted notices throughout Saipan and in the local newspaper announcing the beginning of worship services in the United Methodist tradition. Besides the Korean-speaking Methodists who hosted them, those who attended that first service came from the Philippines, Fiji, and the United States. The religious backgrounds of those who came, besides United Methodists, were Lutheran, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Congregational and United Church of Christ.

The CNMI's population in 1992 was 80,000, of which a little less than half were the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian islanders and a little more than half were contract workers who had come from other lands. Contract workers included doctors, nurses, teachers, attorneys, accountants, hotel and restaurant workers, laborers, domestic helpers, and those working in the garment industry. The indigenous or "local" people are largely Roman Catholic from the influence of Spanish explorer Ferdinand Magellan

and the Franciscan fathers who followed him. Contract workers from the Philippines are predominantly Catholic, but quite a few are United Methodist. Those who came from Fiji (midwives to work in the hospital) were Congregational. Those from the United States were a mix of mainline Protestant, some Catholic, and Jewish. Over and over, the people who came to that first service, and those who came to the following services, expressed their thanks for having a mainline Protestant service in the English language. Immanuel UMC was the first on the island, and has now been joined by one other, an Episcopalian congregation.

Immanuel UMC has stood out in other ways during these past 20 years of offering Christ to the community. For years the members have put together layette sets for the local hospital to give to new mothers who have no money for supplies for their new babies. The people of Immanuel UMC have taken stands that support the foreign workers being paid decent wages and given adequate housing. They have aided *Guma Esperanza*, "House of Hope," the shelter for women who have experienced physical or emotional abuse. Church members have sponsored Vacation Bible School for children of the island. Immanuel UMC has provided a witness for peace and justice that is unique, not only on Saipan but in the entire CNMI. There has been an active UMW

and several lay speaker training courses offered.

Immanuel UMC has continued weekly services of worship plus Sunday School and other education and service programs since its founding on April 5, 1992. The Rev. Barbara Grace Ripple was the founding pastor, and was present on April 16, 1995, when District Superintendent Rex Britt chartered the congregation as a member of the Hawaii District and the California-Pacific Annual Conference. At that time there were 90 members. Rev. Ripple continued as pastor of Immanuel UMC until July 1998, when Bishop Roy Sano appointed her to be the District Superintendent of the Hawaii District (which includes Guam and Saipan). Others who have served as pastors of Immanuel UMC since 1998 include David Corbin, Jaime Vergara, Norma Kehrberg, Ewing "Bud" Carroll, J.J. Matsumoto, and Mary "Millie" Carroll. In April 2011, Pastor Millie retired and no pastor has been appointed. Pastor Johann Osias and lay persons from Guam UMC are giving assistance for worship.

Immanuel UMC invites and welcomes everyone. It is located at Chalan Kanoa Street & Barbara Avenue, Chalan Kanoa. Sunday worship service starts at 9am. For more details, feel free to contact Jaime J. Martinez, Church Council chairperson at 285-0494. (Bud Carroll, DS Tom Choi, and Barbara Grace Ripple)



New Rates for The Magellan
Effective April 1, 2012

Breakfast
daily 7am - 10am
\$21 adult, \$10.50 child

Lunch
Monday to Saturday
11:30am - 2pm
\$24 adult, \$12 child

Sunday Brunch
11am to 2pm
\$27 adult, \$13.50 child

Dinner
nightly 6pm - 9pm
\$34 adult, \$17 child

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RETIREMENT FUND
"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO FUND BENEFIT RECIPIENTS REGARDING PAYMENTS

Annuitants are reminded that the NMI Retirement Fund will no longer issue paper checks for benefits after March 31, 2012. If you have not done so already, please complete an Application and Authorization to Commence or Cease Allotment form and submit this with a copy of:

- a preprinted bank issued deposit ticket, or
- a copy of your bank statement, or
- a copy of your savings passbook

of the designated account. If you are unable to provide any of these, we will accept an official bank form, which provides the account number and the bank routing number. The designated account must be in your name – it may be a joint account with another holder but your name must be on the account.

To receive your benefit payment on time, this form and documents must be turned in to the Fund no later than **April 2, 2012**. You will not receive a paper check or other payment after this date.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Medicaid: Who pays, and how?

The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times on Wednesday, March 28:

The vast expansion of Medicaid in the 2010 health-care reform law put Washington on a collision course with cash-strapped state governments, which have been scrambling to reduce the cost of the joint federal-state insurance program for the poor and disabled. That conflict reaches the Supreme Court on Wednesday, when lawyers for 24 states will seek to bar Congress from adding millions of Americans to the program's rolls. Meanwhile, the House is considering a Republican budget proposal that would cap Medicaid spending and hand over control to the states. Neither approach, however, would solve the program's budget problems, which mirror those faced by the entire healthcare system.

To help reduce the number of uninsured Americans, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act expanded Medicaid to include legal residents with incomes up to 33 percent above the federal poverty line. Although Washington will pick up at least 90 percent of the cost of the new enrollees, the expansion will still cost states tens of millions of dollars annually. The states' lawsuit against the act contends that they are being coerced to do something that Congress doesn't have the power to order them to do. Yet the law didn't create any new hurdles to states dropping out of the program and providing for the poor and disabled on their own. The fact that they don't want to is testament to how good a deal Medicaid remains for states, even with the expanded eligibility.

The House GOP's latest budget proposal offers an alternate approach: giving states Medicaid dollars as block grants, with much more freedom to set their own rules. The amount of aid to states, however, would rise only as fast as inflation and population growth, regardless of healthcare inflation or the poverty rate. That's much less than the program's current growth rate.

The new formula might solve Washington's budget problems, but not the states'. And capping aid without regard to the number of people in poverty would make it that much harder for states to make ends meet during recessions, when the growing ranks of the poor drive up Medicaid costs.

Granted, the program creates a perverse incentive for states to expand Medicaid in order to collect more federal matching dollars. And states need more freedom to innovate, although that doesn't require Congress to hand them a blank check. Ultimately, the challenges are the same as in the rest of the health-care system: A small percentage of the beneficiaries rack up most of the bills. That means states must continue to search for ways to deliver care more efficiently, and to save money through higher quality, better coordinated care. Those are the goals of the Affordable Care Act, which is part of the solution, not the problem.

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JUDGE ANTHONY KENNEDY

Vandalized by speech

Hate speech is a form of vandalism. It defaces the environment, and like a broken window, if left untended, signals to other hoodlums that the coast is clear to do more damage.

But unlike the proverbial broken window, which urban police departments and criminologists urge us to repair to maintain the aura of social order, nobody seems to be in much of a hurry to nip hate speech in the bud. That's because since the ill-fated attempt by several universities to regulate hate speech in the 1980s and '90s, any discussion of reining in racist taunts inevitably degrades into charges of political correctness and ends abruptly with the invocation of the First Amendment.

America's future depends on how well we learn to manage our diversity. Yet when it comes to hate speech, we pretty much adhere to the advice we give elementary school students to defend themselves against bullies: Sticks and stones may break your bones, but names will never hurt you. Or, as a 1st Amendment lawyer might say in a haughtier tone, because regulating speech could erode our freedom to criticize the government, hateful rhetoric is the cost of democracy.

But the cost of democracy isn't exactly being borne equally by all Americans. Despite, or perhaps because of, the social and political gains by minorities, nonwhites seem to be facing a barrage of invective these days that, if left unchecked, could damage our democracy in the long run. Even conservative cultural critics like Charles Murray are acknowledging the emergence of a disenchanted white lower class, and the Republican Party in particular is leveraging this group's disillusionment to its advantage. Some of this resentment is expressed in racial terms and goes well beyond politics.

Last week, a blatantly racist anti-Obama bumper sticker went viral on social media. Not long before that, a federal judge in Montana admitted having emailed a joke about the president that compared interracial sex to bestiality. During an NCAA tournament game a few days ago, members of the Southern Mississippi pep band hounded a Latino point guard for Kansas State with chants of "Where's your green card?" And Sacramento Bee columnist Dan Morain wrote recently about a heckler who told the U.S.-born mayor of Los Angeles to "go back to Mexico."

A decade ago, I would have made a sharp distinction between discrimination and prejudice. I understood and agreed that while the law could prohibit discrimination—that is, the denial of opportunity based on race, ethnicity, religion, etc.—it couldn't do much to keep people from feeling and expressing prejudice toward others. But

By GREGORY RODRIGUEZ

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Gregory Rodriguez is executive director of the Center for Social Cohesion at Arizona State University and a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at gregrodriguez@latimescolumnists.com.



nowadays, with racist rhetoric rising, I've decided we aren't taking the social effects of this type of vandalism seriously enough.

I'm not worried about anyone's hurt feelings. What I am concerned about is the extra burden nonwhites (and other minorities) are expected to bear when entering the public square, and the way tolerated hate speech may keep them on the sidelines and weaken our democracy.

Political scientists proved a long time ago that negative campaigning depresses political participation. Sociologists have argued that the decline in all kinds of civic engagement is a consequence of individual citizens becoming alienated from the larger community. Surely there's nothing like a public square awash in racial invective to foster such alienation. Although concerted attacks on a minority could mobilize its members in the short run, it stands to reason that a steady barrage of hate will force them out of civic action in the long run.

In his forthcoming book, "The Harm in Hate Speech," New York University political philosopher Jeremy Waldron calls racist rhetoric a "slow-acting poison, accumulating here and there, word by word, so that eventually it becomes harder and less natural for even the good-hearted members of the society" to engage all the members of the community. He argues that hate speech is calculated to undermine the "good standing" that everyone in a diverse democracy must have for it to function smoothly.

It's that good standing, by which he means dignity, that enables citizens to engage "on a straightforward basis with others in public, on the streets, in the shops, in business, and to be treated—along with everyone else—as proper objects of society's protection and concern."

I'm not ready to say that the United States should take steps to follow Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Britain, Denmark and Germany in adopting laws to regulate hate speech. But we also can't afford to continue pretending that this rhetorical vandalism isn't the kind of broken window that represents a serious threat to an orderly society.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Those without religious affiliation aren't necessarily rejecting God

The Rise of the Nones" is one of 10 trends changing American life, according to *Time* magazine's March 12 cover story. That's because the "nones"—those who mark "none" on surveys that ask them to identify their religious affiliation—are the fastest-growing religious group in the United States.

Not surprisingly, the increase in the unaffiliated comes at the expense of America's mainstream religions, which means that Christianity is taking the biggest hit. Mainstream Protestant churches have lost more than a third of their members since 1960. Evangelical churches are also feeling the pinch; Southern Baptists are hurting. Various surveys illuminate this trend: About 75 percent of Americans between the ages of 18 and 29 now consider themselves "spiritual but not religious." Furthermore, all traditional forms of Christian practice have sharply declined from previous decades (including church attendance, Bible study and prayer), and doubts are much sharper regarding traditional Christian beliefs.

Although a recent bumper crop of pundits likes to proclaim that we'd all be better off with no religion, I suspect that the majority of us believe that religion, in spite of its flaws, offers individuals the inspiration to be better people and to create a better nation. Seminary and church leaders, in particular, are highly motivated to staunch the decline. Unfortunately, many of them believe that what's really needed is a return to the "faith of our fathers," stricter adherence to creeds and (this is America, after all) better marketing methods.

I advocate a radically different solution: the Emerging Church. It's a movement based on understanding the reasons for mainstream religion's dramatic decline: improved scientific understanding, changing social norms, an increasingly pluralistic religious culture and more freedom to doubt and question—a freedom that until the last three centuries was mostly absent or suppressed and that is still resisted, sometimes violently, in much of the world today.

In my experience, the nones are not rejecting God. They are rejecting doctrinal requirements that they no longer find believable, along with the rigid structures of many organized religions. For that reason, the rise of the nones may well be a new kind of spiritual

awakening, one in which doubters are welcome.

In the Christian tradition, for example, the Emerging Church invites participation from all who find themselves attracted to the teachings, actions and person of Jesus. It isn't crucial that members call themselves Christians, or that they believe Bible stories literally (rather than metaphorically), or even that they are believers rather than agnostics and atheists. As long as people want to sincerely engage with the teachings of Jesus and with the communities that seek to live by those values—"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," "Love your neighbor," "Blessed are the peacemakers"—they are welcome.

Given that there are already almost 10,000 religions in the world, Jewish author Eric Weiner writes that we need to "invent not a new religion but, rather, a new way of being religious." As the dean of a theology school, I see the Emerging Church attracting an incredible diversity of people into new and experimental kinds of religious community. The lapsed faithful, exhausted refugees from mainline faiths, former evangelicals, frustrated Catholics and seekers with no background at all in organized religion are creating (in Weiner's beautiful phrase) "a religious space that celebrates doubt, encourages experimentation and allows one to utter the word God without embarrassment."

The leaders of the movement share a common fascination with the radical teachings of Jesus, but the communities they form vary widely. Meeting sites range from homes to pubs to parks to churches to convention centers. These groups aren't rigidly hierarchical either; their leaders are more often hosts and conveners than preachers and teachers of doctrine.

Examples of these new institutions include Ikon, a group of mostly 20-somethings that meets in a bar in Belfast, Northern Ireland; Journey, a Dallas church that convenes in pubs, restaurants and a center for the mentally disabled; and Solomon's Porch, a community in Minneapolis that has working groups for the arts, education and outreach. Some mainline churches are joining the Emerging Church movement. In Southern California, All Saints, an Episcopal church in Pasadena, offers traditional Sunday services in its beautiful ca-

By **PHILIP CLAYTON**
Los Angeles Times

Philip Clayton is the dean of Claremont School of Theology, a member of the Claremont Lincoln University consortium. His most recent book is The Predicament of Belief: Science, Philosophy, and Faith, which he co-authored with Steven Knapp. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



thedral but also has myriad groups engaged in social justice and compassion programs throughout the community, as well as weekly forums where a wide range of views, including those of atheists and representatives of other faiths, are vigorously discussed.

No matter their size or structure, communities like these offer a vital connection to the infinite grace and compassion of what I'll call the ultimate reality that binds us all—however that reality is understood (or doubted) by each of their members.

Emerging Christians don't have a monopoly on spirituality for the nones, however. L.A.'s East Side Jews often meet for discussion, comedy nights or outreach projects. Although they bill themselves as "an irreverent, non-denominational collective for Jews with confused identities," their events usually have a spiritual thread as well. In one meeting the group invited Jewish and Muslim comics, and professors from Claremont Lincoln University, the inter-religious consortium I work with, to take questions from the membership and their invited Muslim guests. The discussion ranged from hilarious to deeply spiritual, and participants were clearly moved.

I see an immense yearning for these kinds of communities in America. If religious leaders can quit idolizing doctrinal purity and instead create a place for people who doubt and question as well as those who believe, I believe faith in America will have a vital future. And these new models for "church" will be better equipped to work collaboratively with all Americans, no matter what their religion.

Law grads get schooled in court

If you think the world is going to hell in a handbasket, let me introduce you to Melvin L. Schweitzer.

A state Supreme Court judge in Manhattan, Schweitzer on March 21 threw out a lawsuit by nine graduates of New York Law School claiming it misled them about their job prospects. They sought \$225 million in damages.

There is an important lesson in all this, which I'll get to in a bit, but first I want to describe the case, which offers lessons of its own about an over-reliance on the judicial system for salving life's disappointments.

Although its alumni appear amply endowed with chutzpah, New York Law School is not the nation's premier training ground for legal eagles. Not to be confused with the renowned New York University School of Law, New York Law has a "lackluster ranking and reputation," according to the plaintiffs. No dispute there. It also charges annual tuition of \$48,700.

Yet its graduates do go on to have careers in law—as many of the plaintiffs seem to have done, their complaint notwithstanding. By the time of the judge's ruling, four of them had found jobs practicing law. A fifth was a lawyer on a contract basis, while a sixth was a paralegal. And two had yet to pass the New York bar exam. As the judge noted, moreover, seven of the nine graduated into the sharp teeth of the Great Recession, a time when things were pretty tough all over.

Schweitzer, who took the trouble to write a 36-page opinion, summed up his view of the case in words that should be chiseled over the doorway of every law school in the country: "Not every ailment afflicting society may be redressed by a lawsuit."

But what about the claim that New York Law School misrepresented how well its graduates were doing? In general, lesser law schools are notorious for massaging the numbers on this score, but the judge concluded the school's data wasn't misleading, at least not to students shopping for a law school.

Yet New York Law and America's other second-rate law schools aren't out of the woods. An appeal is likely in this case. Lawyers for disgruntled grads have brought at least a dozen additional such cases against law schools around the country, and have threatened 20 more with litigation.

There is something deeply satisfying about discovering that the law schools whose spawn have given us such a litigious society may yet be snared by their own devices.

But while it's easy to deride such lawsuits—as in the war between Iraq and Iran in the 1980s, it's hard to know whom to root for—there may well be some value in them. Maybe they'll force law schools to be more careful in representing their results—and to focus more on preparing graduates for the real world of legal prac-

By **DANIEL AKST**
Newsday

Daniel Akst, a columnist for Newsday, is the author of We Have Met the Enemy: Self-Control in an Age of Excess from Penguin Press.



tice. Deterring some applicants might eventually reduce the supply of attorneys, which is already more than ample. It would be great to redeploy some of this talent into other areas of the economy.

Much has been made of abuses by for-profit colleges that get students to borrow huge sums for degrees that have little value. The lesser law schools are increasingly susceptible to the same criticisms.

Which brings us to the real lesson of this column, one that should be written on the refrigerator of every family with kids looking ahead to college.

That lesson is: Don't pay top dollar for mediocrity. It's tragic to think of students saddling themselves with huge debts to buy a low-quality degree that confers little earning power in the marketplace.

Schweitzer's view from the bench is that students going to law school should know better. You should too.

It's time for a new peace plan for Syria

By **GHASSAN MICHEL RUBEIZ**
THE PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

The current peace plan for Syria is inadequate.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has agreed to the plan negotiated by the U.N.-Arab League envoy, former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan. But that plan misses a basic ingredient: a graceful exit for Assad and his system.

Annan's plan is about a cease-fire, humanitarian assistance and reform under the leadership of the current regime. But the people of Syria will not trust any reform formula sponsored by a ruler who has gone too far, and for too long, in their suppression.

For any plan to succeed, it must do one thing at its root: ease out the Assad regime, which has destroyed its credibility and undermined its legitimacy by cracking down so brutally on the yearlong revolt.

Here is a political plan for a smooth transition of power. The proposed plan sets a time limit for the Assad regime: two years. The purpose of the

following two-year plan is to stop bloodshed, introduce regime change, protect vulnerable communities and avert foreign intervention.

The plan has six points.

1. Social intervention: This should be comprised of a cease-fire, the freeing of political prisoners, a withdrawal of army and opposition troops from streets, full access to humanitarian aid and the repatriation of migrants and displaced groups.

2. Reconciliation: A reconciliation council should be formed with the task of hammering out an agreement. This council should represent all political groups and receive approval of the United Nations and the Arab League.

3. Primary elections: An electoral campaign needs to be prepared to elect a body tasked with writing a constitution that protects human rights for all Syrians.

4. A national referendum should be held to approve the new constitution.

5. There needs to be an election of a four-year parliament.

6. And there has to be an election of a new president by parliament or the people, depending on the constitution.

The above sketch may look unrealistic given the military strength of the regime, a loyalist base among the minority populations, deep divisions within the opposition, confusion of priorities among Syrian ideologues, fear of a takeover by fundamentalists and Cold War-type external meddling.

But it is even more unrealistic to arm the rebels or to mount an international intervention. Both of those would play right into the hands of the Assad regime.






Annan should build on his cease-fire proposal but offer Assad a way to bow out. Only then can the Syrian people hope to taste democracy and freedom.

Ghassan Michel Rubeiz, a social scientist and political commentator, is the former secretary of the Middle East for the Geneva-based World Council of Churches.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼76
Yap	Showers	▲89 ▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲91 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲86 ▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼79

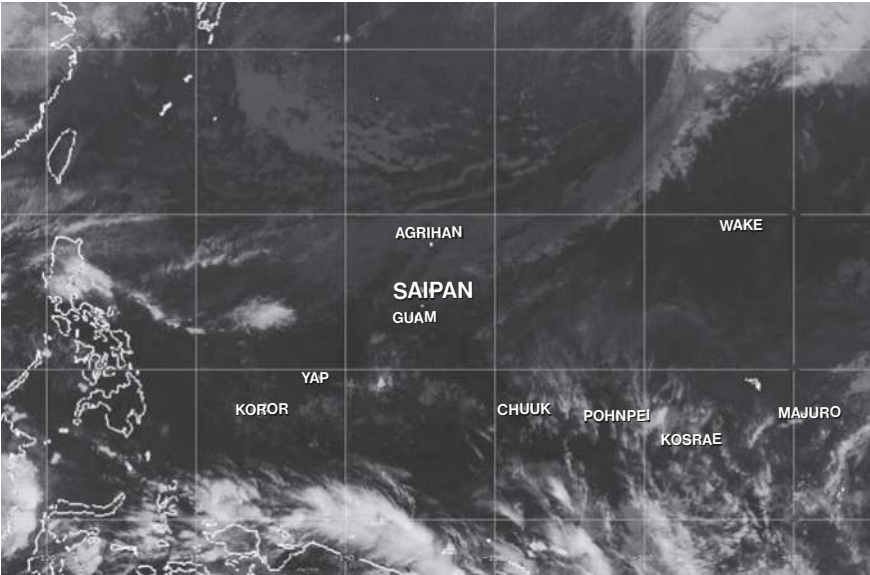
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲68 ▼62
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲52 ▼33
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲70 ▼64
Honolulu	Sunny	▲80 ▼71
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲55 ▼38
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲64 ▼50
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲67 ▼55
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲87 ▼68
New York	Showers	▲48 ▼38
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲51 ▼38
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲54 ▼35
Pusan	Sunny	▲52 ▼38
Rome	Showers	▲69 ▼51
Salem	Rain	▲49 ▼39
San Francisco	Rain	▲56 ▼47
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲49 ▼33
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲55 ▼39
Washington, DC	Showers	▲58 ▼46

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:46 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet	
8:52 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet	
1:34 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet	
9:21 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from northwest of Wake Island at 25N161E across the far northern CNMI near Pagan at 17N146E to beyond 130E at 13N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are present along and up to 350 miles northwest of this feature. A near-equatorial trough stretches east-southeastward from 4N130E to end south of Pohnpei at EQ159E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found south of Koror, Yap, Chuuk and Pohnpei or south of a line from 3N130E to 3N159E. An upper-level low centered east of Wake Island at 18N175E is triggering a few thunderstorms between 14N and 21N from 172E to 178E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:12 AM	6:30 PM
Tuesday	6:11 AM	6:30 PM
Wednesday	6:10 AM	6:30 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:19 PM	12:40 AM
Sunday	1:12 PM	1:27 AM
Monday	2:07 PM	2:13 AM
Tuesday	3:02 PM	2:58 AM
Wednesday	3:59 PM	3:43 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP) C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN) C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) C05064 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:15pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:20am+1 2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7 DL581 4:10am 7:30am 1, 5	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6 DL580 10:10pm 2:55am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ704/603 11:40pm 2:20pm Daily via ICN C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/147 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 10:50pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES			
CATHOLIC			
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro Parish office hours: Monday-Saturday 8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm			
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm			
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm) Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated) Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm. Telephone no. 285-0273			
Santa Soledad Mission Parish Monday: 6pm Tuesday: 6pm Wednesday: 6pm Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass) Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass) Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am, Saturday: 4-6pm Telephone no. 256-4568			
Saint Jude Parish Monday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 7am Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm Office is close every Thursday and Saturday Telephone no. 288-0007			
San Antonio Parish Monday-Friday 6pm Saturday: 6pm Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children) Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm Close on Sunday and Monday			
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro Wednesday:6pm English Thursday: 6am Chamorro Friday: 6am English Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog Sunday: anticipated mass			
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am Monday-Friday: 7pm Saturday: 5am and 7pm			
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm Thursday: day off Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm Telephone no. 234-6991			
San Roque Parish Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English Monday: 6pm English Tuesday: 6pm English Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil Thursday: 6pm English Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays) Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the			
Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143			
San Vicente Parish Monday-Friday: 6pm, Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month) Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm Parish office hours: daily 9-11am Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131			
Santa Remedios Sunday: 8am Monday: 6pm (1 st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm) Tuesday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm			
PROTESTANT			
Amen Church Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net			
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm			
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm Telephone no. 234-6026/27			
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm Telephone no. 235-8540			
Church 360 Suite 103 of Marianas Business Plaza (1st floor of former Nauru Building). Contact www.church360saipan.org, info@church360saipan.org, or call 888-2116 Celebration Service: Sundays at 10:15am Prayer Fellowship: Thursdays at 6:30pm			
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm As Perdido Road Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950 Tel. No. (670) 235-8590 Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org			
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 10:00am Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road, Call 285-6081 for directions			
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service) GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio			
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week) Telephone no. 322-5680			
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (English) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)			
Immanuel United Methodist Church Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral) Worship Service: 9:00am Children's Sunday School: 9:00am Choir Practice: 8:00am Singspiration: 8:30am Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158			
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog) 9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage) (Korean Congregation) Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm Wednesday evening service: 8pm Daily morning prayer: 5am			
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm, Wednesday: 7:30-9pm			
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9:20am Sunday Adult: 11am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm			
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)			
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm			
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm			
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd. Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661			
Marianas Bible Fellowship Center Sunday School: 9-9:30am Divine Worship: 9:30-11am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm			
Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch) Sunday worship 8:30am Sunday evening 7:00pm Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm			
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel Telephone: 789-7566			
Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)			
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 10-11am Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm Thursday Bible Study: 7pm			
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm			
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm			
First Baptist Church Koblerville Sunday services: Sunday school 9:00am Morning worship 10:00am Evening service 6:00pm Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm			
Chinese services Sunday morning 10:00am Sunday evening 7:00pm			
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. Telephone No: 285-4661/2			
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi			
Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism			
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer 7am-9am English service 7am-9am Sunday school 10am-12noon English service, Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan			
Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship:10:30am Sunday PM Worship:7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S			
Victorious Christian Church (Formerly God's Victorious Army) Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246			
Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call <i>Saipan Tribune</i> at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.			

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 31, 1999

Compensation law eases plight of Bangladeshis
Fifteen Bangladeshi nationals will be repatriated next week under a recently implemented law that allows the government to provide up to \$3,000 in compensation to nonresident workers awaiting awarded monetary damages. They will be the first batch of displaced workers to receive financial assistance from the CNMI set forth in Public Law 11-66 which was signed last month in another attempt to deal with growing number of labor cases on the island and stave off federal takeover of local labor and immigration. According to Labor and Immigration Sec. Mark Zachares, the 15 Bangladeshi workers, who were employed as security guards and abandoned by their employers, would receive money equivalent to three-month salary and a one-way plane ticket back to their country.

FAS bill a booster to anti-crime efforts, DPS says
The Department of Public Safety has added its voice to the growing support from government agencies over a proposed legislation restricting the stay of Freely Associated States citizens in the CNMI, saying it is a step to curb rising crimes involving their nationals on the island. Public Safety Commissioner Charles W. Ingram said the bill addresses important “nondiscriminatory issues” affecting citizens from FSM, Palau and Marshalls and their impact on local resources and infrastructure. The department has seen “an increasingly large percent of reported cases committed” by FAS citizens here, eating up a chunk of its operations and budget, he said in a letter to Rep. Melvin Faisao, sponsor of House Bill 11-294 or the Habitual Residency Act.

Mar. 31, 2000

Teno's decision on 80MW project out soon
The fate of the controversial Saipan power project will soon be known as Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio pledged yesterday to act immediately on legislation restoring the mothballed 80-megawatt proposed plant. The chief executive said his legal counsel has reviewed Senate Bill 12-19 and that he expects to decide whether to sign or veto it by today or early next week. The measure, offered by Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes, will force the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to reinstate the original proposal and scrap a plan to re-bid a new power plant with a 60-MW capacity.

Go't deploys over 250 enumerators for Census 2000
Thirty-year-old Hope brags that she would not provide enumerators accurate answers when she is interviewed for the United States Constitution-mandated periodic gathering of population data. Hope, who is a mother of two U.S.-born children, is one of the group of people who does not take census seriously on belief that the government's effort is nothing more than statistics. Like other unaware people, Hope is oblivious of the reasons why a complete accounting of every individual is conducted throughout the United States every 10 years, according to Washington Census 2000 Advisor Tasha Boone.

Mar. 31, 2003

'NMC administrators are underpaid'
Northern Marianas College administrators are getting lower wages compared to the median pay that their counterparts are getting in other community colleges in the U.S. Latest statistics presented by NMC president Kenneth Wright during Friday's Board of Regents meeting showed that some NMC administrators would need up to 72-percent increase in their salaries to meet the median. The NMC came up with its own computation based on the 2002 statistics released by the Chronicle of Higher Education, which originated from the reports of 1,444 public and private colleges and universities nationwide.

DEQ cites water firm, Ada gym for violating regs
The Division of Environmental Quality disclosed Friday it issued several notices of violations to different establishments-including the Ada Gymnasium and a bottled water company-in connection with its enforcement of drinking water regulations. DEQ public information specialist Therese Hocog said Aqua Best, a bottled water company in San Antonio, violated regulations when its water system tested positive for coliform bacteria in January. The agency, however, only issued the citation early this month. The citation showed that two of five samples from Aqua Best's public water system tested positive for the bacteria. Regulations require public water systems collecting less than 40 samples per month to have “no more than one positive total coliform bacteria sample.”

Maharlika

OFWs in NMI may now enroll in PhilHealth program

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Filipino workers in the CNMI can now register electronically and become a member of the Philippine Health Insurance program, popularly known as PhilHealth, according to welfare officer Julie Fabian.

PhilHealth is a premier government corporation that ensures sustainable, affordable, and quality social health insurance that endeavors to influence the delivery of accessible quality health care for all Filipinos.

Under PhilHealth, allowed members are land-based overseas contract workers; self-practicing professionals; marginalized and less privileged families

whose coverage is shouldered by the national government, or local government units, private individuals and companies or other philanthropists; employees in the government and private sectors, including household employees and sea-based Filipino workers whose premiums are jointly shouldered by the employee and the employer; and retirees and pensioners.

Fabian said yesterday that the electronic registration through PhilHealth's online facility, the PhilHealth Electronic Registration System, can be accessed at www.philhealth.gov.ph.

According to Fabian, PhilHealth membership payments were accepted by the Philippine Consulate General back when

there was still a PhilHealth representative on island years ago.

"We receive a lot of inquiries from Filipino workers about PhilHealth that's why we're happy to announce that they can register and make their payments online," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fabian said the online system is more convenient for Filipino workers in the CNMI, given the impending closure of the Consulate.

To apply for membership, a Filipino workers needs to fill out the PhilHealth Registration Form and submit applicable documents for each qualified dependent declared.

Qualified dependents who are covered by PhilHealth without additional premiums include a

legal spouse who is non-member or an inactive member; children (legitimate, acknowledged or adopted) below 21 years of age, unmarried and unemployed; children above 21 years but suffering from congenital disability; and parents who are non-members or inactive members. They must be declared by the principal member.

Applicable documents to be submitted are any of the following: valid overseas employment certificate or e-receipt; valid overseas employment contract or certificate of employment; valid re-entry visa; and valid job contract. These documents may be sent electronically or through postal mail.

Annual premium for 2012 is

Php1,200. But beginning Jan. 1, 2013, annual premium will then be Php2,400. There is, however, a two-year, lock-in period option available until Dec. 31, wherein the annual premium will still be at Php1,200.

PhilHealth benefits include inpatient coverage, which involves subsidy for room and board, drugs and medicines, laboratories, operating room and professional fees for confinements not less than 24 hours; outpatient coverage, which includes day surgeries, dialysis and cancer treatment procedures such as chemotherapy and radiotherapy in accredited hospitals and free-standing clinics; and special benefit packages such as treatment for TB, SARS, Avian Influenza,

and H1N1.

For more information, visit www.philhealth.gov.ph, visit their Facebook account "owp-philhealth," or email owp@philhealth.gov.ph.

UFO gearing up for annual Mt. Tapochao trek

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Officers and members of the United Filipino Organization are now ready for the annual trek to Mt. Tapochao on April 6 in observance of Good Friday.

Bong Malasarte, president of the umbrella organization of some 30 Filipino groups in the CNMI, and UFO adviser Olive Yana separately confirmed yesterday that the group will be at their designated site on Mt. Tapochao by late Thursday afternoon to put up their tent.



Malasarte

Malasarte said they will be handing out boiled eggs, congee, sandwiches, water, and coffee to the hundreds of pilgrims that are expected to trek up the mountain to commemorate the suffering and death of Jesus Christ on the Cross.

"The assistance that we provide every year during the hike to Mt. Tapochao on Good Friday is our small way of giving back to the community and this is also through the generous donation of our sponsors," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Malasarte said the event is also an opportunity for UFO members to get together as Good Friday is one of the observed legal holidays in the CNMI.

"Usually, we would see more of our members, particularly those who can't make it to our regular meetings because of their responsibilities at work," he added.

Malasarte encouraged all their officers and members to take part in their activity and, at the same time, reflect on the real message of the Lenten season.

"We hope that the entire UFO will become involved in our efforts to serve the community in this holy season and also mark the occasion by repenting for our sins and asking forgiveness from God," he said.

Malasarte also thanked their members who stepped up as volunteers for the 4th Settsu-Saipan Friendship Tournament last Tuesday and Wednesday.

Lions' medical mission draws 259



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Officers and members of the Lions Club International District 204 Region 2 pose for a group photo before the start of the health fair last Sunday. A total of 259 community members availed of the free medical services that included eye/vision checkup, blood sugar and blood pressure screenings.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The eye/vision checkup was the most popular of all the services provided by members of the Lions Club International District 204 Region 2 during their health fair at the Civic Center last March 25, according to committee chair and regional treasurer Paul Madriaga.

Madriaga disclosed yesterday that many of the community members who attended the event were unable to avail of the eye/vision checkup since they didn't make it to the 12pm cutoff.

"The Guam Lions Club was only able to bring two eye testing equipment and it wasn't enough for individuals who wanted to get their vision checked," Madriaga said.

Madriaga said Sunday's event was a success, drawing 259 individuals who also took advantage of other free medical services such as blood sugar and blood pressure screenings. The Division of Public Health also administered close to 200 flu shots during the event.

"We were only anticipating 200 community members and we served more than that," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Madriaga noted that majority of the individuals that availed of the free medical services were Filipinos, while the rest were Chamorros, Chinese, and other ethnic groups.

The health fair was made possible with the assistance of Guam Lions Club members who arrived the day before and left Sunday evening. Among them were Guam Asia Pacific Lions Club district governor Rey Acierio, district treasurer Tony Soriano, Guam Galaide Lions Club district administrator Zeny Cachila, and Guam Marianas Lions Club president Joe Besagar.

The event was also a collaborative effort with various organizations and businesses, said Madriaga. Hardt Eye Clinic helped in the eye/vision screening; Saipan Seventh-Day Adventist Clinic conducted oral health orientation, donated eyeglass frames, and gave away toothbrush and other freebies; Keiko Odashiro of the non-

profit Nurturing Transformative & Sustainable Communities or NUTESE conducted outreach on domestic violence; and the CNMI Diabetes Coalition.

The Guam Harmony Lions Club, meanwhile, distributed cancer awareness pamphlets from the American Cancer Society. Rota

Water donated 10 cases of bottled water and Don Pedro provided the sound system.

"We would like to express our appreciation to all those who contributed to the success of our health fair, particularly our volunteers, donors, and sponsors," said Madriaga.

Other donors and sponsors were Micronesian Brokers, Inc., Triple J Super Fresh Market, D&Q, KFC, Taco Bell, First Lady's Vision Foundation, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, JET Holdings, Toshiba, RNV Construction, National Office Supply, and the Advance Group.

Online store for Filipino musicians, music lovers

President Benigno S. Aquino III led Wednesday the formal launching of the OPM2Go website, an online music store dedicated to Filipino artists, musicians and music lovers that hopes to address the proliferation of music piracy.

The website OPM2Go.com aims to help the Filipino music industry by providing a distribution avenue for artists, bands, and musicians so that they may be able to reach a broader audience. It was publicly unveiled during its launch at Eastwood City walk in Quezon City.

During his speech, Aquino said that the OPM2Go.com will help stop the proliferation of pirated Filipino music in the country as well as protect in-

tellectual property rights musicians and Filipino artists.

"Magandang habang din po ito upang malabanan natin ang pamimira sa musika, kasabay ng pagpo-protekta sa karapatang-ari o intellectual property rights ng mga manunulat at mang-aawit sa kanilang akda. Mulat po kasi tayo sa bawat ilegal na pag-download ng musika, o pagbili ng album na pinirata, ang pangunahing tinatamaan ay ang mga OPM artists [This is a good step in our fight against music piracy, together with protecting intellectual property rights of composers and singers. We are aware of illegal music downloads, or purchasing of pirated albums; OPM artists are primarily affected by this]," the

President said.

"Wala silang kinikita. Ang masakit pa po rito, alam din nating kasabay ng talento, puspusang dedikasyon ang kanilang ibinuhos upang maibahagi sa atin ang kanilang mga awitin. Kaya naman, nara-rapat lang na masuklian natin ang kanilang pagsusumikap, 'di po ba? [They do not earn anything. What is painful here is that, coupled with their talent, they render persistent dedication to provide us with their music. That is why we need to repay them for their hard work, right?]," he added.

Aquino noted that the music piracy does not only affect the artists and musicians but also the music industry in general.

Filipino rebels threaten new attacks on mine firms

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine communist guerrillas warned three mining companies Wednesday that they may be attacked again if they continue to use methods the rebels say harm the environment.

New People's Army regional spokesman Jorge Madlos said the nickel mining companies in remote Claver town

in southern Surigao del Norte province have refused to discuss the guerrillas' concerns about the environment and the treatment of mine workers. Mining officials have denied the rebel allegations.

Military spokesman Col. Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos said attacks by more than 200 guerrillas on the sprawling mining compounds last October were

part of extortion attempts. Government forces have bolstered security at the mines, he said.

The Maoist guerrillas disarmed guards, briefly held company staff, and burned company offices and heavy equipment during the Oct. 3 attacks, one of the largest rebel assaults in recent years. One of the companies was forced to temporarily shut down its operations.

Madlos acknowledged the rebels wanted what he called "revolutionary taxes" from the mining companies but said the attacks were primarily sparked by their concern over mining methods that have allegedly caused sea and land pollution in Claver, about 430 miles (700 kilometers) southeast of Manila.

The New People's Army, which is listed by Washington as a terrorist group, has staged smaller attacks on mining com-

panies and banana plantations in the south in the past, accusing them of exploiting the country's resources and workers. The rebels are estimated to number slightly more than 4,000.

Peace talks with the guerrillas stalled last year after the government refused a rebel demand for the release of several of their captured comrades.

The Communist Party of the Philippines urged its armed wing, which celebrates its

43rd anniversary on Thursday, to intensify attacks on government forces, including small assaults that employ home-made bombs, land mines and booby-traps, "to demoralize and disintegrate the enemy."

The Marxist insurgency, one of Asia's longest-running, has been weakened considerably by battle setbacks, surrenders and factionalism but remains the country's leading security threat, the military says.

Philippines ranks 13th on the list of countries launching cyber-attacks

By **PAOLO G. MONTECILLO**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippines has been tagged as one of the world's biggest sources of a dangerous kind of cyber "attack" designed to take down entire computer networks and shut down key consumer services.

The latest report by Russian Internet security firm Kaspersky Labs showed that the Philippines ranked 13th on the list of 23 countries where "distributed denial of service" or DDOS attacks originated in 2011.

The Philippines was one of four Southeast Asian countries to make the list, the two others being Malaysia at 5th, Indonesia at 18th and Vietnam at 19th. Over 90 percent of all DDOS attacks came from the 23 countries on the list.

As much as 2 percent of these came from the Philippines, Kaspersky Labs analysts Maria Garnaeva and Yuri Namestnikov said.

"DDOS attacks are used as an act of protest as well as a highly effective tool for exerting pressure on competitors," Namestnikov said in a statement.

"It comes as no surprise therefore that online trade (online shops, auctions, message boards) was most frequently targeted," he said.

Kaspersky said attacks were also conducted against businesses, including travel company websites. Unknown groups conducted these attacks during the summer season when travel was at its peak, as well as Christmas and New Year holidays.

A DDOS attack aims to make a computer or network

unavailable to its intended users. This is done usually by a group or by a single user in control of several devices looking to stop a particular Internet site or service from functioning properly.

This is done by flooding a server with more network traffic than it is able to handle. This prevents the server from carrying out its normal functions and in some circumstances crashes the server completely.

Last year, the number of DDOS attacks around the world rose by 57 percent. "This figure may increase in the coming months of 2012," Namestnikov said.

In 2010, the Philippines was one of the top 20 countries around the world with the highest incidence of cybercrimes. Of the list of 20, six were from the Asia Pacific region.

School punishes Filipino boys for Facebook kissing

By **OLIVER TEVES**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine Catholic school is withholding the diplomas of six high school boys who uploaded Facebook photos that appear to show them kissing one another, an education official said Friday.

A day earlier, a Philippine court rejected another Catholic school's decision to bar five girls from graduation ceremonies because they had posed in bikinis for photos posted on Facebook. The cases test the limits of privacy in a conservative Catholic nation that is also among the world's most prolific users of social networking sites.

Department of Education officer Samuel Mergenio said the six boys told him they had taken prank photos to make it appear that their lips touched. One of the boys uploaded the pictures on Facebook and mistakenly made them available to others, Mergenio said.

The pictures were not taken at the boys' school, Infant Jesus Academy in the Manila suburb of Marikina, but the students were wearing school uniforms, he said.

Mergenio said the school's chancellor informed the depart-

ment late Thursday that the boys will be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremonies but "the release of their diplomas will be delayed." He said the school did not say when the diplomas will be handed over and that he was awaiting a formal written report from the school.

The school chancellor was not available for comment Friday.

The mother of the boy who uploaded the photos said she works as a nurse in Saudi Arabia and went home only to attend the graduation of her son, one of twins.

She said she refused to attend the graduation ceremonies because her son would only be subjected to ridicule since he won't be called to the stage to receive his diploma. "It will be like an insult," she told The Associated Press.

On Thursday, a judge in central Cebu city issued a restraining order against St. Theresa's College High School, ordering it to allow the five students who appeared in the bikini photos to take part in Friday afternoon's graduation ceremonies.

The school, which declined to comment to the AP, asked the court to reconsider. The girls' lawyer, Cornelio Mercado, said Friday that the school was still

insisting on banning the students while its motion for reconsideration is pending.

Mercado said one Facebook photo at issue showed a girl holding a cigarette and a liquor bottle, while others showed all five wearing bikinis at a beach party on the 16th birthday of one of the girls in late December.

The mother of the girl who hosted the party said a security guard barred the group Friday from entering the school campus.

"They were really hurt," she said.

School officials took action against the girls for what they called "engaging in immoral, indecent, obscene or lewd acts," according to court records. They said the students would graduate but could not participate in activities or ceremonies.

Earlier this month, the five girls were summoned by the principal and other school officials, "dressed down" and called "sluts," Mercado said.

The judge, Wilfredo Navarro of the Regional Trial Court, castigated school officials for calling the girls "inappropriate names." He said not allowing them to participate in graduation activities "would indeed be most un-Christian if not entirely inhuman."

Police eye 6 suspects in mall robbery

By **JAMIE ELONA**
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Six people may have been involved in the robbery at Robinsons Galleria in Quezon City Thursday morning, not three as reported, Chief Superintendent Mario dela Vega said Friday.

After further investigation and interview with several witnesses, Dela Vega said three attacked the bank teller and his security escorts while three others waited outside the mall entrance.

He said they were able to interview a mall guard stationed at the mall's upper level, saying

that three men, on board a motorcycle, were seen waiting outside the entrance near to Ortigas service road.

He said one of the waiting suspects was the grenade thrower.

Two motorcycles were used as escape vehicles but police have yet to determine the amount of money taken from the roving teller, he said.

He also said Vincent Mangatura was the only bank teller from Security Bank who was scheduled to deliver an unidentified amount of cash to Sanrys Money Changer located at the ground floor of the mall, along

with security escorts Rodrigo Reloso and Rodrigo Villa who was killed in the ensuing melee.

Leah del Mundo, another bank teller Dela Vega said, was also wounded, along with three others, from the grenade blast outside the mall. There were two grenades that were hurled by one of the suspects, but only one went off.

Dela Vega said they were reviewing a similar robbery incident that happened in October 2011 in Dasmarinas, Cavite where six suspects victimized a money changer in the province, killed three, and carted away millions in cash.



Police investigators examine the scene of a robbery as others search for evidence in a mall Thursday, March 29, 2012 in suburban Quezon City north of Manila, Philippines. Police in the Philippines say two robbers opened fire and threw a grenade inside a mall in downtown Manila, killing a security guard and injuring at least six people.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Philippines worried about NKorea rocket debris

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Benigno Aquino III says he is gravely concerned that debris from a rocket that North Korea plans to launch next month may fall on Philippine territory. Aquino said Thursday that what North Korea calls a satellite launch is widely believed to be a test of long-range missile technology that violates a U.N. ban. He called the launch in a speech to Filipino veterans of the Korean War a "needless provocation" and urged North Korea to aban-

don it. The U.S. military says North Korea has indicated the rocket will be launched southward, and it is probably intended to land somewhere close to the Philippines or Indonesia. Philippine Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin says the Philippines will rely on the United States to monitor the rocket.

Philippines dismisses Chinese protest over island

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines has brushed aside a Chinese protest and says it will go ahead with construction of a ferry wharf on an is-

land occupied by Filipino troops but claimed by Beijing in the South China Sea. Government spokeswoman Abigail Valte says the Philippines considers Pagasa part of its territory. Last week China's Foreign Ministry reiterated its claim of sovereignty over the island it refers to as Zhongye, and said it opposes any illegal activities there. Valte said Wednesday that the government believes the construction will not escalate tensions with China. The Philippines plans to hold military exercises with the U.S. in the area next month. Last year, Manila accused China of harassing a Philippine oil exploration ship.

Samu't Sari



BIRTHDAY BOY
Hopwood Junior High School principal Jonas Barcinas poses with Victoria Nishida, Rachel Quichocho, Liv-ia Pangelinan, and Aida Gagaring at his birthday celebration.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Principal Jonas Barcinas poses with Claire Cabrera, Jackie Echon, Ruby Hocog, and John Pialur, holding his *Hunger Games*-themed banner with birthday wishes from students and staff.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



ORAL CARE TRAINING
Hopwood Junior High School staff and administration officials have their picture taken with health care professionals who are part of the Primary Health Oral Care Training sponsored by Pacific Islands Primary Care Association, in collaboration with the CHC Department of Public Health.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



IT'S TIME FOR PROJECT PROM!
Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence program coordinator Kiki Igitol, left, and program assistant Keala Peters join Pena House Boutique sales associate Marissa Castro, center, for a photo at the shop. Pena House Boutique is donating prom dresses and accessories for Project Prom drive that will be held today, March 31, at the Minatchom Atdao from 10am to 2pm and the public is encouraged to donate new or gently used formal wear.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT
A birthday shoutout to the apple of my eye, the salt and lemon to my vodka, and tequila shots and the juice to my screw driver, Franklin "DA EAGER" Iguel! Happy birthday and many more to come and have a safe and blessed birthday!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BILLBOARD WISHES
Hopwood Junior High School and Teen Talk wish principal Jonas Barcinas a belated happy birthday and promote Project Prom.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TRITON SPIRIT
The California Pizza Kitchen restaurant in Tumon, Guam, is the University of Guam's 60th anniversary business partner for the month of April. Present the CPK flyer to your server, which can be downloaded from the university website at www.uog.edu beginning April 1, and CPK will donate 20 percent of your bill (excluding alcohol) to the UOG Foundation. Pictured from left with some of CPK's fabulous pizzas are UOG President Robert Underwood and California Pizza Kitchen's Darren Talai and Jerry Pastones.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



RUSSIAN WEBSITE
From left, Guam Visitors Bureau marketing officer Gina Kono, U.S. Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs John McCaslin, GVB marketing manager Pilar Laguaña, Sen. Tina Muña Barnes, and U.S. Consul General Doron Bard officially launch GVB's Russian Language website at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow as the Guam delegation kicks off their trip to promote Guam at the 2012 Moscow International Travel and Tourism Fair.

GVB

Business

Apple assembly line gets pay raise, fewer hours

NEW YORK (AP)—Chinese workers who often spend more than 60 hours per week assembling iPhones and iPads will have their overtime hours curbed and their pay increased after a labor auditor hired by Apple Inc. inspected their factories.

The Fair Labor Association says Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., the Taiwanese company also known as Foxconn that runs the factories in China, is committing to a reduction of weekly work time to 49 hours, the legal Chinese maximum.

That limit is routinely ignored in factories throughout China. Aret van Heerden, CEO of the Fair Labor Association, said Foxconn is the first Chinese company to commit to following the legal standard.

Apple's and FLA's own guidelines call for work weeks of 60 hours or less.

Foxconn's moves are likely to have an impact across the global technology industry. The company employs 1.2 million workers in China to assemble products for Apple, Microsoft Corp., Hewlett-Packard Co. and other pillars of U.S. technology.

Foxconn's factories are the last step in the process of manufacturing iPhones and other Apple devices, most of which

have hundreds of components. Research firm IHS iSuppli estimates that Apple pays \$8 for the assembly of a 16-gigabyte iPhone 4S and \$188 for its components. It sells the phone wholesale for about \$600 to phone companies, which then subsidize it to be able to sell it for \$200 with a two-year service contract.

Ricardo Ernst, a professor at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business, said companies play a risky game when they raise their manufacturing costs because they can be undercut by competitors.

But iSuppli's figures suggest that if Apple were to absorb a Foxconn wage increase that keeps salaries level while cutting average working hours from 60 to 49 per week, it would pay less than \$2 extra to have an iPhone made.

Other electronics companies, particularly PC makers such as Dell and HP, earn less profit on what they sell and could see a deeper impact.

Thomas Dinges, an analyst at iSuppli, said Apple's competitors will probably have to accept the price increase too, since it's framed as a moral issue.

"At this point, it's politics. It's not really economics," he said,



In this March 28, 2012 photo provided by Apple, Inc., Apple CEO Tim Cook, center, visits the iPhone production line at the newly-built manufacturing facility Foxconn Zhengzhou Technology Park, which employs 120,000 people.

adding that there are few alternatives to Chinese factories for most of these products.

The FLA auditors visited three Foxconn complexes in February and March: Guanlan and Longhua near the coastal manufacturing hub of Shenzhen, and Chengdu in the inland province of Sichuan. They employ a total of 178,000 workers,

with an average age of 23.

Average monthly salaries at the factories ranged from \$360 to \$455. Foxconn recently raised salaries by up to 25 percent in the second major salary hike in less than two years.

Apple enormous profits—\$13 billion in October-to-December quarter—have made it the world's most valuable company, worth more than \$570 billion. It's also put the spotlight on the way its products are made.

In a one-man Broadway play, actor Mike Daisey told of visiting China and talking to underage and injured Foxconn workers. Public radio program "This American Life" used Daisey's monologue in a show about Foxconn on Jan. 6, but retracted it two weeks ago, saying that Daisey had fabricated key parts of it, including him meeting 13-year-old workers.

The cost of making Apple products, at a glance

While Apple Inc.'s relationship with Hon Hai Precision Industry Co. gets a lot of attention, the Taiwanese company accounts for only a fraction of the cost of each device it assembles.

The Chinese factories of Hon Hai, also known as Foxconn, put together iPhones and iPads, but high-cost components like chips and screens come from a range of U.S., Taiwanese and South Korean companies.

Research firm IHS iSup-

pli provides the following cost breakdowns:

■ Basic iPhone 4S
Price: \$199 with two-year contract

■ Cost of components
Memory chips: \$28.20
Touch-sensitive display screen: \$37

Wireless chips: \$23.54
Camera: \$17.60

Total cost of materials: \$188

What it costs Apple to have

the basic iPhone assembled in a Foxconn plant: \$8

-Basic iPad
Price: \$499
-Cost of components

Memory chips: \$30.70
Touch-sensitive display screen: \$117

Battery: \$32
Total cost of materials: \$306

What it costs Apple to have the basic iPad assembled in a Foxconn plant: \$10

BlackBerry maker to focus on business customers

TORONTO (AP)—Struggling BlackBerry maker Research In Motion Ltd. said Thursday that it plans to return its focus to its corporate customers after failing to compete with flashier, consumer-oriented phones such as Apple's iPhone and models that run Google's Android software.

The shift in strategy came with a management shakeup that includes longtime executive Jim Balsillie leaving the board and severing ties with a company he helped build and later see decline.

RIM said it will focus its consumer efforts on targeted offerings that tap the company's strengths. That includes devices that employees will want to buy on their own and bring to the corporate environment. The company was exploring partnerships and other opportunities for consumer products that aren't deemed

central. Those products could include software and features that are then incorporated into RIM's own offerings.

"We can't do everything ourselves, but we can do what we're good at," RIM CEO Thorsten Heins said.

RIM has had limited success trying to enter consumer markets in recent years, particularly with high-end devices that sport touch screens popular with consumers.

Heins said a turnaround required "substantial change."

"We believe that BlackBerry cannot succeed if we tried to be everybody's darling and all things to all people," Heins said. "Therefore, we plan to build on our strength."

Heins, who joined RIM four years ago and was most recently its chief operating officer, replaced co-CEOs Balsillie and Mike Lazaridis in January after

the company lost tens of billions in market value. Lazaridis founded the company, and Balsillie had joined in its early years.

RIM said Thursday that Balsillie has resigned from its board after 20 years with the company. David Yach, chief technology officer for software, and Jim Rowan, chief operating officer for global operations, also are leaving.

The company said it was undergoing a comprehensive strategic review. Heins said he was open to selling the company, but "it is not the main direction we are pursuing right now."

The Canadian company has long dominated the corporate smartphone market. Its BlackBerrys are known for their security and reliability as email devices. President Barack Obama even refused to part with his BlackBerry after he took office.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

US economy grew 3 percent in final quarter of 2011

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of 3 percent in the final three months of 2011, the best pace in a year and a half. But that growth has likely slowed in the current quarter. Businesses have been restocking their shelves more slowly and shipping fewer long-lasting manufactured goods. In addition, Europe's debt crisis and weaker growth in Asia have slowed demand for U.S. exports. Stronger hiring in the first two months of the year probably hasn't offset those weaknesses. That's because Americans' pay has barely kept pace with inflation even as gas prices have spiked. So consumer spending, which drives about 70 percent of economic activity, probably hasn't increased much from the end of last year.

Best Buy to cut costs and close stores

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—In order to grow, Best Buy is shrinking. The largest U.S. specialty electronics retailer for years expanded quickly by opening big-box stores across the country. But

shoppers have started using the hulking stores as showrooms where they can test out products before buying them cheaper elsewhere. To revamp the struggling chain, Best Buy said Thursday it plans to close 50 of its U.S. big box stores, cut 400 corporate jobs and trim \$800 million in costs. The company, which has about 1,400 U.S. locations, also plans to open 100 smaller and more profitable Best Buy Mobile stores throughout the country.

\$540M lottery has states anticipating tax jackpot

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—People queuing up for Mega Millions tickets aren't the only ones salivating over the record \$540 million jackpot that could be won Friday—some state governments struggling through lean times know a hometown winner would bring a tax bonanza. Taxes on a lump-sum payment option to a single winner could mean tens of millions of dollars of badly needed revenue that could go to restore entire social service programs on the chopping block, pay for hundreds of low-income housing units, forestall new taxes or hire more state troopers.

Bernanke optimistic on long-term economic growth

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Thursday that he thinks the U.S. economy will return to its long-term growth of around 3 percent a year despite the weaknesses it still faces.

Bernanke made his observation in his fourth and final lecture to George Washington University students. The lectures this month have been intended to both demystify the Fed and defend the steps it took to confront the 2008 financial crisis and the Great Recession.

The Fed chairman showed the students a chart illustrating that annual U.S. economic growth over the past century has been about 3 percent. Since the recession ended in 2009, the economy has averaged about

2.5 percent growth.

Some economists have raised the possibility that the economy's weakness since the financial crisis hit could persist for years. Bernanke said he was more optimistic.

"I think there's a reasonable chance, looking at the long-run history, that the U.S. economy will return to healthy growth, somewhere in the 3 percent range," Bernanke said.

Bernanke didn't say when he thought the U.S. economy would return to its normal growth rate. The government reported Thursday that the economy did grow at a 3 percent rate in the final three months of 2011. But economists believe that growth slowed to around 2 percent in the first three months

of this year.

In his final lecture, Bernanke explained how the Fed drove a key interest rate it controls to a record low near zero in December 2008—and then took unconventional steps to try to help the economy recover from the financial crisis and recession. Among the actions it took were two rounds of bond buying totaling more than \$2 trillion. The goal was to drive down long-term rates to encourage borrowing and spending.

Many investors hope the Fed will launch a third round of bond buying later this year. Bernanke offered no hints about the Fed's intentions. But he defended the bond purchases, which critics say have heightened the risk of high inflation later.

Nation

Justices meet Friday to vote on health care case

WASHINGTON (AP)—While the rest of us have to wait until June, the justices of the Supreme Court will know the likely outcome of the historic health care case by the time they go home this weekend.

After months of anticipation, thousands of pages of briefs and more than six hours of arguments, the justices will vote on the fate of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul in under an hour Friday morning. They will meet in a wood-paneled conference room on the court's main floor. No one else will be present.

In the weeks after this meeting, individual votes can change. Even who wins can change, as the justices read each other's draft opinions and dissents.

But Friday's vote, which each justice probably will record and many will keep for posterity, will be followed soon after by the as-

signment of a single justice to write a majority opinion, or in a case this complex, perhaps two or more justices to tackle different issues. That's where the hard work begins, with the clock ticking toward the end of the court's work in early summer.

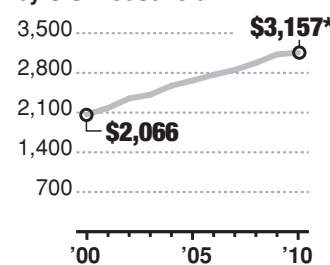
The late William Rehnquist, who was chief justice for nearly 19 years, has written that the court's conference "is not a bull session in which off-the-cuff reactions are traded." Instead, he said, votes are cast, one by one in order of seniority.

The Friday conference also is not a debate, says Brian Fitzpatrick, a Vanderbilt University law professor who worked for Justice Antonin Scalia 10 years ago. There will be plenty of time for the back-and-forth in dueling opinions that could follow.

"There's not a whole lot of give and take at the conference. They say, 'This is how I'm go-

Health care coverage and costs

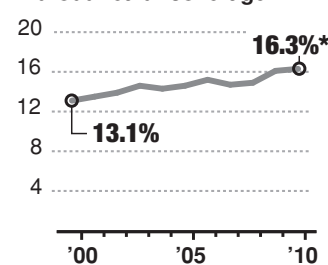
Health care spending by U.S. household



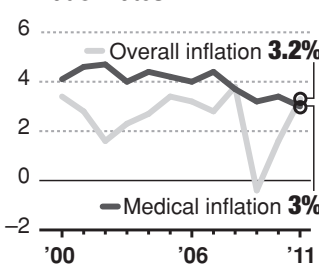
*Latest data available

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, U.S. Census Bureau

Percentage in the U.S. without health coverage



U.S. medical and overall inflation rates



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ing to vote' and give a few sentences," Fitzpatrick said.

It will be the first time the justices gather as a group to discuss the case. Even they do not always know in advance what the others are thinking when they enter the conference room adjacent to Chief Justice John Roberts' office.

By custom, they shake hands.

Then Roberts will take his seat at the head of a rectangular table. Scalia, the longest serving among them, will be at the other end. The other seven justices also sit according to seniority, the four most junior on one side across from the other three.

"They generally find out how the votes line up at the conference," said Orin Kerr, a

George Washington University law professor who worked for Justice Anthony Kennedy nine years ago.

The uncertainty may be especially pronounced in this case, where the views of Roberts and Kennedy are likely to decide the outcome, Kerr said in an interview Thursday. "I don't think anyone knows. I'm not

sure Justice Kennedy knows."

No one's vote counts more than the others', but because they speak in order of seniority, it will become clear fairly quickly what will become of the health care overhaul.

That's because Roberts speaks first, followed by Scalia, then Kennedy. If the three men hold a common view, the Obama health care overhaul probably is history. If they don't, it probably survives.

If Roberts is in the majority, he will assign the main opinion, and in a case of this importance, he may well write it himself, several former law clerks said. If Roberts is a dissenter, the senior justice in the majority assigns the opinion.

The court won't issue its ruling in a case until drafts of majority opinions and any dissents have circulated among the justices, changes have been suggested and either accepted or rejected.

Govs tour Neb. beef plant to see 'pink slime'

SOUTH SIOUX CITY, Neb. (AP)—Governors of three states got up close with "pink slime" Thursday, touching and examining treated beef at a plant and eating hamburgers made with it in a bid to persuade grossed-out consumers and grocery stores the product is safe to consume.

The three governors and two lieutenant governors spent about a half hour learning about the process of creating finely-textured lean beef in a tour of the main plant that makes the product, then blasted the media for scaring consumers with a moniker coined by critics.

"If you called it finely textured lean beef, would we be here?" asked Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback. Several other leaders echoed his comments as they tried to smooth over consumer concerns about the product.

Beef Products, the main producer of the cheap lean beef made from fatty bits of meat left over from other cuts, has drawn scrutiny over concerns about the ammonium hydroxide it treats meat with to change the beef's acidity and kill bacteria. The company suspended operations at plants in Texas, Kansas and Iowa this



Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, left, and Neb. Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy mug for cameras while holding a t-shirt following a press conference Thursday, March 29, 2012, in South Sioux City, Neb.

week, affecting 650 jobs, but defends its product as safe.

The politicians who toured the plant—Texas Gov. Rick

Perry, Brownback, Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, Nebraska Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy and South Dakota Lt. Gov. Matt Michels-

all agree with the industry view that the beef has been unfairly maligned and mislabeled and issued a joint statement earlier saying the product is safe.

"Why are we here today defending a company that has a rather sterling record dealing with making a food product that is very much needed in this country in a very safe manner? Why are we here today?" Perry said.

The officials spent about 20 minutes going over the production process in a separate room at the plant with Craig Letch, the company's director of quality assurance, viewing and handling more than a dozen slabs of raw meat and the processed, finished product laid out on cutting boards on a round wooden table.

The officials asked about the added ammonia, which Letch said is used as an extra safety precaution against E. Coli.

"What we're doing with ammonium hydroxide is directly targeting those specific microorganisms that could affect human health. It is nothing more than something to ensure consumer safety," Letch said as the politicians bent over the raw cuts of beef.

JetBlue co-pilot, unlikely hero, instant celebrity

SALEM, Ohio (AP)—Friends and relatives of the co-pilot of JetBlue Airways Flight 191 say he doesn't want to be considered a hero—but that's exactly what many are calling him.

Pilots train for a whole range of in-flight mishaps including sick passengers, emergency landings and terrorist attacks. But Jason Dowd faced the rarest of scenarios: deciding whether to lock his incapacitated captain out of the cockpit and call for an emergency landing after Clayton

Osbon became unruly and had to be subdued by passengers.

Dowd is staying out of the public eye for now, but a wave of overnight fame—much like 'Miracle on the Hudson' Capt. Chesley Sullenberger—likely awaits. JetBlue says the decision on whether to go public is up to him, but the airline is not commenting more out of respect for his privacy. Public relations experts say there are big pros and cons to going public, like what "Sully" and his co-captain Jeff

Skiles experienced in the aftermath of their emergency landing in the Hudson River.

"For some folks it's a lot to deal with—especially all at once," said Dr. Ron Bishop, a professor of culture and communication at Drexel University in Philadelphia. "It seems given all the outlets and different means in which we communicate, the attention paid to a person in that situation is ramped up considerably."

According to court documents, Osbon became increas-

ingly incoherent on board the Las Vegas-bound flight Tuesday, and Dowd was "really worried" when Osbon told him "we need to take a leap of faith." Concerned about Osbon's behavior, Dowd suggested they invite an off-duty JetBlue captain who was flying as a passenger to come into the cockpit, but instead, Osbon left the cockpit and later sprinted down the cabin yelling jumbled remarks about Sept. 11 and Iran, documents and witnesses say.

Romney's attack ad strategy: Time for Obama soon?

NEW YORK (AP)—Rick Santorum doesn't care about the unemployment rate. Newt Gingrich has "more baggage than the airlines." Both are Washington insiders who have bent their principles for money and influence.

So say Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney and his allies.

That advertising playbook has helped make Romney his party's likely presidential nominee and could offer a preview of what awaits President Barack Obama in this summer's general election campaign.

Voters in early primary states have seen plenty of this ad strategy already: a torrent of attacks on Romney's opponents along with a few positive spots about the GOP front-runner's biography and business experience. The strategy, devised by Romney's campaign and an allied independent group, has been focused and unforgiving, all but eviscerating the former Massachusetts governor's rivals while portraying the candidate as an effective manager and devoted family man.

"The ads have been very effective," says Jonathan Collegio, a spokesman for American Crossroads, a conservative-leaning super political action committee. They've catapulted Romney "into a very strong position in the Republican primary without going so far that he's alienated swathes of independent voters."

The general election phase of the campaign will tell whether that's true.

One thing that's certain is that the Romney team's approach has successfully shepherded him through a primary season in which voters have been far more conservative than the candidate was perceived to be.

Romney's team now faces a far greater challenge: persuading a more centrist general electorate to bounce Obama, who polling shows has much higher favorability ratings than his Romney himself.

The Romney campaign and Restore Our Future, a super PAC supporting his candidacy, together have poured about \$50 million into television ads in the primary campaign so far, according to information provided to The Associated Press by ad buyers. No other candidate or super PAC has come close to that level of spending.

Restore Our Future, which is run by several former Romney advisers, has spent more than \$35 million on TV ads alone, almost of which have been negative attacks against Santorum and Gingrich.

ROF's approach has been clear and unadorned: Cut straight to the heart of Romney's rivals' vulnerabilities, often using their own words against them. Make accusations about their records, citing news sources as support.

There are signs a similar approach will be used against Obama.

ROF has released one ad scoffing at the president's history as a community organizer and law professor.

Asia

Japan orders interception of NKorean rocket

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's defense minister on Friday ordered missile units to intercept a rocket expected to be launched by North Korea next month if it flies over Japan.

The order from Defense Minister Naoki Tanaka came at a meeting of Japan's national security council. It followed instructions issued earlier in the week for the military to prepare to intercept the satellite rocket if it enters Japanese territory.

■ ■ ■

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean officials say North Korea test-fired two short-range missiles this week from its west coast.

Two Defense Ministry officials said Friday that the testing took place Wednesday. The launches came one day after South Korea hosted a nuclear security summit of nearly 60 world leaders in Seoul.

The officials wouldn't comment on what the tim-

ing of the launches may have meant. Both spoke on condition of anonymity citing department policy.

North Korea regularly conducts short-range missile tests. The latest came as North Korea prepares to launch a long-range rocket next month from its west coast.

North Korea says it aims to put a satellite in orbit. U.S. and South Korean officials see the launch as a cover for testing long-range missile technology.

■ ■ ■

The Unha-3 rocket is expected to fly past western Japan after its launch from North Korea's west coast sometime between April 14 and 16. The plan has raised concerns that a failed launch, or a falling stage of the rocket, could endanger Japanese lives or property.

A statement from the Defense Ministry said Japan would send destroyers equipped with Aegis missile defense systems to the Pacific and East China Sea and deploy mobile Patriot missile

launchers to islands in Okinawa. An interceptor missile unit is also likely to be deployed in Tokyo, although the capital is well away from the expected flight path.

Seoul has also warned it might shoot down any parts of the North Korean rocket that pass over South Korean territory.

North Korea has said it plans to launch a satellite into orbit. Japan, the United States and other countries claim it is also seeking to test the capabilities of its long-range mis-

siles, in violation of international agreements.

Japan mobilized its interceptor units and issued a similar warning to North Korea before a rocket launch in 2009, but did not follow through.

Interceptor missiles on the Japanese destroyers would serve as the first line of defense, and the land-based Patriot missiles would be a backup. Japan has successfully tested its interceptor missiles, but has never used them in a real-world situation.

Officials: US missile strike kills 3 in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A suspected U.S. drone fired two missiles at a house in northwest Pakistan early Friday morning, killing three alleged militants in an attack that comes as Pakistani officials have stepped up their calls for the strikes to end, intelligence officials said.

The attack could complicate U.S. efforts to get Pakistan to reopen its border crossings to supplies meant for NATO troops in Afghanistan. Pakistan shut the border last November in retaliation for American airstrikes that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers.

Pakistan's parliament is debating a revised framework for its relationship with the U.S. that Washington hopes will result in NATO supply routes reopening. But a key demand is that the U.S. stop drone attacks, which are very unpopular in Pakistan because many people believe they mostly kill civilians - a claim denied by the U.S. and contradicted by independent research.

Friday's strike targeted a house in Miran Shah, the main town in the North Waziristan tribal area, a key sanctuary for Taliban and al-Qaida militants, Pakistani intelligence officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

The three suspected militants killed in the strike and four wounded were believed to include foreigners, said the officials. The attack occurred

while the group was sleeping, they said.

The U.S. rarely talks publicly about the covert CIA-run drone program in Pakistan, but officials have said privately that the strikes are a key component of America's war against Islamist militants and have killed senior Taliban and al-Qaida commanders.

President Barack Obama stepped up the drone campaign in Pakistan when he took office in 2009, and most of the attacks have targeted North Waziristan. But the strikes have dropped off significantly in recent months as the relationship between the U.S. and Pakistan has deteriorated.

Pakistani officials have regularly criticized the attacks as a violation of the country's sovereignty. But the military was widely believed to help with at least some of the strikes and allowed the drones to take off from bases inside Pakistan.

That cooperation has come under serious strain as ties have worsened, especially following the deaths of the Pakistani soldiers at two posts along the Afghan border. In addition to cutting off NATO supplies, Pakistan kicked the U.S. out of a base used by American drones in the country's southwest.

The move was not expected to significantly impact the drone program since the base was only used to repair aircraft that took off from Afghanistan. But it did signal the gov-

ernment's growing opposition to the drones, culminating in the parliamentary debate currently taking place.

One of the reasons the U.S. has relied to so heavily on drone strikes in Pakistan, and is reluctant to give them up, is that Islamabad has rejected calls to target militants in North Waziristan who are using the area as a base to attack American troops in Afghanistan.

The most important group is the Haqqani network, considered the most dangerous militant faction fighting the U.S. in Afghanistan.

Pakistan has argued that it can't conduct an offensive in North Waziristan because its troops are stretched too thin by operations against militants within the country who threaten its own government.

But many analysts believe Pakistan is reluctant to target the Haqqani network and its allies in the Afghan Taliban because they are seen as important allies in Afghanistan after foreign forces withdraw.

Pakistan has close historical ties with both groups, and U.S. officials have accused the country's shadowy spy agency, the ISI, of continuing to provide them with support—an allegation denied by Islamabad.

Analysts argue that Pakistan's calculus has not changed despite billions of dollars in U.S. military and civilian aid over the last decade meant to enlist greater support in the fight against Islamist militants.



In this April 5, 2009 image made from KRT video, a rocket is lifted off from its launch pad in Musudan-ri, North Korea.

Suu Kyi cites widespread poll irregularities

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi said Friday that Myanmar's weekend elections will be neither free nor fair because of widespread irregularities, but vowed to press forward with her candidacy for the sake of the country.

Suu Kyi said opposition candidates had been targeted in stone-throwing incidents and other intimidation that hampered their campaigning in the run-up to Sunday by-elections that are considered a crucial test of Myanmar's commitment to democratic reforms.

The 66-year-old Nobel peace laureate told a news conference that the irregularities go "beyond what is acceptable

for democratic elections."

"I don't think we can consider it genuinely free and fair if we consider what has been going on for the last couple months," Suu Kyi said. "We've had to face many irregularities."

She said there were attempts to injure candidates and cited two cases in which stones or other objects were thrown at members of her opposition National League for Democracy, causing one of the party's security guards to be hospitalized.

There were "many, many cases of intimidation" and vandalism of party campaign posters.

She blamed some of the acts on "people in official positions."

Despite the irregularities, Suu Kyi said that the party is "determined to go forward because we think that is what our people want."

The by-election is likely to mark a symbolic turning point by bringing Suu Kyi into parliament for the first time, an event that would raise hopes for a more representative government after a half century of repressive military rule.

The by-election will fill 45 vacant seats in Myanmar's 664-seat national parliament.

A victory by Suu Kyi and the opposition would do little to alter the balance of power in parliament but would give her a voice in government for the first time.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Dead Tibetan activist's letter calls for freedom

NEW DELHI (AP)—The Tibetan who burned himself alive on the eve of a visit by China's president left a letter that urged the world to stand up for his homeland, activists said, while Indian authorities detained more Tibetans on Thursday in the Indian capital. Police have taken hundreds of Tibetans into custody since Monday's self-immolation by Jamphel Yeshe, 27, and have effectively closed off New Delhi's Tibetan neighborhoods, fearing embarrassing protests during the visit by Chinese President Hu Jintao. The Tibetans are expected to be released after Hu leaves New Delhi on Friday. He is in the city for the BRICS summit with the leaders of India, Russia, Brazil and South Africa.

Frenchman suspected in Indonesian embassy blast

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A Frenchman who studied with Islamic militants in Indonesia allegedly orchestrated last week's bombing at the country's embassy in Paris, a top anti-terrorism official said Thursday, citing intercepted emails and online chats. The package bomb that exploded March 21 did not cause any injuries or major damage to the building. Indonesia's anti-terrorism agency chief Ansyaa Mbai told The Associated Press that French investigators had confirmed that the main suspect is Frederic C. Jean Salvi, who also is believed to have studied for several years with Islamic militants in this predominantly Muslim nation.

World

Syria's Assad demands rebels halt attacks

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's President Bashar Assad said Thursday he will spare no effort to make U.N. envoy Kofi Annan's peace plan a success, but demanded that armed opponents battling his regime commit to halting violence.

In brazen attacks, gunmen kidnapped a high-ranking military pilot outside the capital and assassinated two army colonels in the country's business hub, in what appeared to be part of a stepped-up campaign by the battered opposition against the symbols of Assad's power.

The violence Thursday un-

derlined the Syrian government's predicament: Acceptance and implementation of the U.N. plan, which calls for a full cease-fire, risks spelling the end of an autocratic regime which has relied largely on brute force to stay in power over the past four decades.

Assad's condition of an express promise from the opposition to stop attacks could complicate Annan's attempts to bring an end to more than a year of violence that the U.N. says has killed more than 9,000 people.

The opposition has cautious-

ly welcomed Annan's six-point plan, but it is also deeply skeptical Assad will carry it out, believing he has accepted it just to win time while his forces continue their bloody campaign to crush the uprising. Armed rebels are unlikely to stop fighting unless offensives by security forces halt. It is also difficult for rebel forces to uniformly stop fighting since there is no central command structure.

Last year, Assad agreed to an Arab-brokered peace plan similar to Annan's, pledging to work with observers who traveled to Syria on a mission to

end the crackdown. But the regime failed to pull out its tanks from towns and cities, saying the country was under attack from the armed groups, and the bloodshed has escalated sharply since the League halted its observer mission on Jan. 28.

That failure tempered reaction to Assad's promises Thursday.

At an Arab League summit in the Iraqi capital, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Elaraby discussed the Syrian crisis and Annan's mission and they agreed "that it was imperative for president Assad to match his commitments with action," the U.N. spokesman's office said.

Arab leaders at the summit issued a resolution calling on Assad's regime to "immediately

implement" Annan's proposals. The plan calls for Damascus to immediately stop troop movements and use of heavy weapons in populated areas and to commit to a daily two-hour halt in fighting to allow humanitarian access and medical evacuations. It also calls for a full cease-fire to be supervised by the U.N. so that all parties can discuss a political solution.

In comments carried on Syria's state news agency, Assad said "Syria will spare no effort to make (Annan's) mission a success and hopes it would return security and stability to the country."

But he added that the U.N. envoy must "deal with the elements of the crisis in a comprehensive way" and get a commitment from armed groups to cease their "terrorist acts"

against the government. "To make Annan's mission a success, he should focus on drying up the sources that support terrorism against Syria," Assad added.

Throughout the crisis, Assad's regime has held that it faces not a popular uprising against his rule but a campaign of violence by terrorists.

The presence of the tanks along with security forces and snipers shooting to disperse protests has largely succeeding in preventing demonstrators from recreating the fervor of Egypt's Tahrir Square, where demonstrators occupied a central square and stayed there.

It is not clear how Assad can abide by Annan's plan without risking a similar situation or losing control over cities recently recovered from rebel control by the military.



This image made from amateur video and released by the Syria media center Friday, March 23, 2012, purports to show Syrians pulling out the body of a man under the rubble of a building that was bombed in Homs, Syria.

Venezuela poll says Hugo Chavez ahead of rival

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez has a double-digit lead over the opposition's presidential candidate, but a quarter of Venezuelan voters haven't committed to either candidate, a poll said Thursday.

The survey released by the Caracas polling firm Datanalysis said nearly 45 percent of those polled said they would vote for Chavez, while 31 percent supported Miranda state Gov. Henrique Capriles. About 25 percent were undecided.

"Those undecided ones are going to indicate the trend in the future," said Luis Vicente Leon, the polling firm's president.

Chavez, who has been in office since 1999, is seeking another six-year term in the Oct. 7 election.

The survey questioned about 1,300 people in Venezuela between Feb. 29 and March 7, and had a margin of error of nearly 3 percentage points, Leon said.

He said the percentage of people expressing no choice for a candidate had increased since the firm's previous poll a month earlier, when almost 50 percent said they would vote for Chavez and 35 percent backed Capriles.

Leon said the monthly poll is paid for by about 300 clients that include both private businesses and state companies as well as individuals. He said some of the clients include political leaders, but he didn't identify them.

About 62 percent of respondents said they viewed Chavez's performance favorably, compared to 50 percent who had a favorable view of Capriles' performance as governor.

Poll results have varied widely in Venezuela recently, with each political camp touting dueling figures. Government media have reported on polls indicating Chavez is ahead of Capriles by as much as 30 points. Last week, the polling firm Consultores 21 released a survey indicating Chavez and Capriles are running head-to-head.

Chavez appeared on state television early Thursday after returning home from a five-day round of radiation therapy in Cuba, where he has been undergoing cancer treatment.

"Thanks to God, I've withstood the treatment very well," Chavez said. "Let's hope that's the case next time."

He said that the radiation treatments had been admin-

istered for five days in a row and that he would be in Venezuela until Saturday, when he plans to return to Havana for the next round.

Chavez has said the radiation therapy is intended to prevent any new cancer threat after a surgery last month that removed a second tumor from his pelvic region. He had another tumor removed from the same location in an earlier operation in June.

The 57-year-old leftist president has vowed to overcome cancer and win the October vote.

During a Thursday evening speech to beneficiaries of government housing programs, Chavez charged that his opponents are conspiring with officials in Washington to level accusations of fraud and provoke street violence if he is re-elected to a fresh six-year term.

"It's a plan. The government of the United States is behind this plan," said the longtime critic of U.S. policies in the region.

He suggested that Capriles and fellow opposition leaders are pursuing the alleged plan because they are convinced they will lose the election.

Spain engulfed by nationwide anti-austerity strike

MADRID (AP)—Spanish workers enraged by austerity-driven labor reforms to prevent the nation from becoming Europe's next bailout victim slowed down the country's economy in a general strike Thursday, closing factories and clashing with police as the new-center right government tried to convince investors the nation isn't headed for a financial meltdown.

Tens of thousands held protest marches in Madrid and other cities, and the demonstrations turned violent in Spain's second largest city of Barcelona, where hooded protesters smashed bank and storefront windows with hammers and rocks and set fire to streetside trash containers. Television images also showed the Barcelona demonstrators throwing rocks at riot police vans, and hitting them as they sped near the crowds.

Traffic was slowed in Valencia next to the Mediterranean Sea when demonstrators lit mattresses ablaze on a highway, and a Molotov cocktail was hurled at a police car in the eastern city

of Murcia. Authorities arrested 176 protesters across Spain and said 104 people were injured in clashes, including 58 police officers. There were no immediate reports of serious injuries.

The protests came a day before Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's administration is expected to announce about (EURO)30 billion (\$40 billion) in spending cuts and tax hikes to ease increasing fears about Spain's budget deficit. European leaders insist drastic cuts must be made this year even though reductions in government spending are almost sure to boost the unemployment rate of nearly 23 percent, the highest among the 17 nations that use the euro.

The labor reforms make it less costly for Spanish businesses to fire workers, and give them incentives for hiring—but protesters said they are being forced to give up rights they earned decades ago.

"Why wouldn't I protest?" asked textile worker Jose Jimenez, 60, from the Madrid

protest. "I've spent 45 years working for the same company and now they can get rid of me almost for free."

Others said the reforms put in place by Rajoy in February after his conservative Popular Party ousted the governing Socialists in November will only boost the profits of companies and banks.

"Workers are losing all their rights, and the benefits will go only to the banks and the businesses," 57-year-old bus driver Fidel Martin said.

Labor unions said millions of Spaniards in the nation of 47 million stayed away from work to protest, and the strike caused transportation delays and prompted Spain's government-run national health care system to significantly reduce services except for emergency cases. Workers at car factories that assemble vehicles for Renault SA, SEAT SA, Volkswagen AG and Ford Motor Co. largely stayed home, and services at mining and port facilities were also severely limited, union leaders said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Brazil protests counter military coup celebration

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Riot police used pepper spray and tear gas Thursday to chase protesters away from a celebration by retired soldiers marking the 1964 coup that established Brazil's long military dictatorship. Former officers have gathered every year to mark the occasion, but now they're facing a growing tide of opposition and had to push through about 200 people screaming "murderer" and holding up photos of those killed during the regime. Unlike Argentina, Chile and Uruguay, which also had repres-

sive military regimes, Brazil has never had a formal investigation into human rights abuses during its 1964-85 dictatorship. A 1979 amnesty law barred prosecutions for politically motivated crimes committed during the regime.

Bloc threatens to seal off Mali, cut off money

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—Seeking to force from power the mutinous soldiers that seized control of Mali last week, the body representing countries in the region announced late Thursday that they will close all its land borders with the landlocked Mali, as well as

freeze the nation's bank account if the junta does not step aside. The financial sanctions would be among the harshest imposed in recent years on a nation in West Africa and are likely to strangle impoverished Mali, which imports nearly all of its gasoline from neighboring Ivory Coast. Kadre Desire Ouedraogo, the president of the commission of the Economic Community of West African States, or ECOWAS, told reporters in the capital of Ivory Coast that the sanctions will go into effect in 72 hours if the coup leaders do not take steps to restore the country's democratic institutions.

Young Style

Lucky students get field trips to 'Hunger Games'

LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP)—For some American school kids, the odds have been ever (and awesomely!) in their favor as they've scored the ultimate field trip—an outing to "The Hunger Games."

"All of my friends who don't go to my school are all really jealous," said 15-year-old David Schwartz. He was among about 500 ninth-grade English students from New Rochelle High School in suburban New York City who were taken to the movie on opening day last Friday.

Lexis Eberly was among 120 seventh-graders treated to opening day from Tuslaw Middle School in Massillon, Ohio. Her review: "If I had the chance, I would go see the movie 20 more times!"

For both, the field trip was the result of a blockbuster movie coinciding with their curriculum: They were assigned "The Hunger Games," the first book in Suzanne Collins' best-selling trilogy, as summer reading heading into the school year.

In New Rochelle, the book has anchored much of the work in freshman English since the first day of school. They've written letters from the point of view of main characters and created maps of the arena where kids fight other kids to the death as the bawdy ruling class watches on TV in Collins' dystopian world.

Some teachers and parents said they hoped the field trips would help their reluctant readers.

Brigid Barry, the English program administrator at Greenwich High School in Connecticut, said about 50 ninth- through 12th-graders from Literacy Workshop, a program at the school, were treated to the movie.

"Sometimes you get a kid in the program who has never read a full book, so to see them excited to read this one, to accomplish that, is really something," Barry said.

Mered Kopstein, one of the New Rochelle teachers who arranged private screenings at a local theater, said the outing achieved something else at her school, where more than 3,000 students are broken into smaller "learning communities": It provided a rare chance to bring them together through text they've all devoured.

That point wasn't lost on at least one of the students, 14-year-old Adrian McCullough. "It was more about unity, I think, as a group," he said. "It

wasn't about getting out of class."

While it's generally gotten favorable reviews, some film critics have torn into the movie like a blood-thirsty "muttation"—in the book's parlance, an animal genetically altered for use as a weapon. But these students hadn't read any reviews, and didn't care much what the grown-ups thought, anyway.

They were too busy comparing the movie to the book, and comparing the story to others from class, like "Lord of the Flies," "Great Expectations," "The Lottery" and "The Most Dangerous Game."

The first of a series of planned "Hunger Games" films broke the record for a non-sequel over the weekend with a \$153 million haul at the box office in the United States and Canada, surpassing predictions and giving it the third-highest opening weekend ever.

Not all parents were pleased about the field trip to see the movie, which earned a PG-13 rating based on a toned-down script co-written by Collins herself. Some school outings for younger kids, in fifth and sixth grade, were canceled after small numbers of parents complained.

Hamilton International Middle School in Wallingford, Wash., bagged a sixth-grade trip to see the movie because parents were concerned about violence, according to The Seattle Times. School administrators did not return calls from The Associated Press for comment.

At the private Seattle Girls School in Washington, only one family decided to opt out of a movie outing for about 20 students later this week.

"It's clearly a pretty violent book," said Rafael del Castillo, the head of school. "But I do wonder why we collectively are so worried about violence in this particular book and this particular movie," he added, noting the pitfalls of video games and other media kids consume heavily.

In California, Carol Stevenson's sixth-grader, 12-year-old Jacob, and his schoolmates from Santa Clarita International Charter School were taken to the movie on opening day



In this image released by Lionsgate, Jennifer Lawrence portrays Katniss Everdeen, left, and Liam Hemsworth portrays Gale Hawthorne in a scene from "The Hunger Games."

after his teacher read the book aloud to his class.

"This is a widely diverse group in ethnicity, talent, ability," Stevenson said. "He was the envy of his friends who don't go to that school."

And Jacob's take? "I don't really recommend the movie," he said. "The book was much better."

Tool kits for teachers looking to hop on "The Hunger Games" bandwagon are all over the Internet. Some teachers have made quick classroom lessons of the movie after students returned from the film.

"If I was not in Literacy Workshop this year, I might not have read this book, but I would have seen the movie," 16-year-old Sydney Curley, a sophomore at Greenwich High, wrote to her teacher.

She added: "I think people watching the movie without having read the book would miss out on a lot of the underlying feelings of the characters."

At Tuslaw, the Ohio middle school, seventh-graders had been counting down to the movie after spinning off an array of projects from their study of the book.

They made movie posters and dreamed up alternate endings, created models of the arena and costumes, and acted out entire scenes in movies of their own making that they posted on YouTube.

In Denver, Anne Parsons has a reluctant reader in 13-year-old daughter Clare, who went to the movie with her seventh-grade class at the public Hill Campus of Arts & Sciences. Their teacher made reading the book a requirement for students to make the movie trip.

"She's not an avid reader but she loved this book," Parsons said. "She finished it quickly, so I thought the movie was worth it for that alone."

Science Matters

Giant eyes watch for killer

Researchers say they now understand why huge eyes — the animal kingdom's largest — are useful to the giant squids.

Colossal (or giant cranch) squid
Mesonychoteuthis

Both
about 33 ft.
(10 m) long

Giant squid
Architeuthis

Sperm whale
49 ft. (15 m) long

Its echo sonar can
detect squid, its
prey, 400 ft.
(120 m)
away

Squids' strange eyes

Eyeball: 11 in.
(27 cm) diameter;
as large as a
basketball

Pupil: 3.5 in.
(9 cm) diameter

Can detect
whale from
distance
of about
400 ft.
(120 m)

Hunter and hunted in ancient sea

90 million years ago,
another ocean
predator had large
eyes it could use
to evade a larger
predator; both were
dinosaurs

Pliosaur
Top predator;
49 ft. (15 m) long

**Had 4 in.
(10 cm)
eyeballs**

Ichthyosaur
20 ft. (6 m) fish-eater

Source: Dan Nilsson of Lund University (Sweden),
Current Biology, squid drawing by Citron
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas

© 2012 MCT

Note: Some examples
of the many Pliosaur
and Ichthyosaur species

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

SQUARE DEAL! Given the diagram at right, you are asked to insert the eight even numbers shown — 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16 — to achieve a total of 28 on each of the square's four sides. (Each of the eight numbers is to be used just once.)

L	E	O	H	D	A	R
U	T	N	S	I	R	E
T	C	I	O	N	P	P
A	E	T	E	R	E	P
T	M	O	L	Y	T	O
O	C	E	C	A	R	R

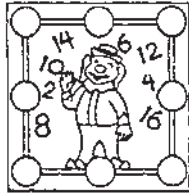
As a starter, let it be known that numbers 6, 8, 10, and 16 appear in corners.

How long will it take you to insert the numbers?

Remember, sides total 28.

From top left, clockwise: 16, 10, 12, 14, 8, 6, 4, 2.

CLIPSO FACTO! Pick up a handful of paper clips and count them. Double the number. Add 18 and divide by two. Subtract the original number of clips and add 43. Resulting amount appears below.



BEPUZZLING SALAD MIX

YOU are challenged to conduct a hunt for names of seven common salad ingredients that appear in consecutive order in the diagram below. Names are to be spelled by moving letter by letter to adjacent squares, up, down or diagonally.

These are the seven ingredients to be connected in order: Lettuce, tomato, celery, carrot, pepper, radish, onion.

All 42 letters in the diagram are to be used, each just once.

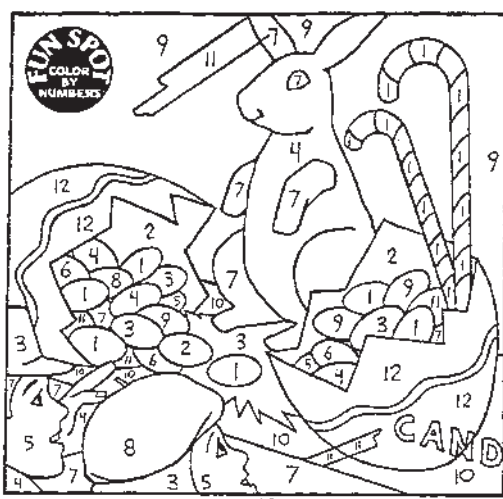
Hint: Begin at letter L in upper left-hand corner.

How quickly can you spell out the words?

Time limit: 2 minutes.



JOIN HUNT! Our artist says some 20 eggs are present in this egg hunt scene. See how many of them you can find.



EGGED ON! One chocolate bunny to go. Code: 1—Red. 2—Blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh. 6—Lt. green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Dk. green. 9—Dk. purple. 10—Gray. 11—Lavender. 12—Pink.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words.

CLOTHING

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible two-letter words: Clog, hint.

Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It was American humorist Evan Esar who defined a zoo as “an excellent place to study the habits of human beings.”

■ The New York Times Best Seller list was first published on April 9, 1942. Since that time, only eight authors have managed to have books place No. 1 on both the fiction and nonfiction lists. Those who have accomplished that feat include Ernest Hemingway, Jimmy Buffett, William Styron, Dr. Seuss and John Steinbeck.

■ If you're planning a trip to New Orleans, you might want to keep in mind the following law: It's illegal in that city to curse a firefighter while he or she is engaged in official duties.

■ America's first vending machines were found in New York City train stations; they dispensed gum.

■ The European sturgeon (also known as the beluga sturgeon) is the source of the highly coveted beluga caviar, which is the world's most expensive, bringing up to \$5,000 per pound. This sturgeon can live more than 100 years and is the largest freshwater fish in the world; the record holder, caught in 1827, was 24 feet long and weighed 3,460 pounds.

■ In a 1982 issue of the magazine American Film, a writer named Chuck Ross claimed that he retyped the screenplay to the 1942 film “Casablanca,” changing only the title and one of the character's names, and submitted it to 217 agencies. Of the 85 who responded, only eight recognized it as “Casablanca,” though it seemed familiar to another 25. Three of the agencies thought it might be commercially viable, while one thought it should be turned into a novel. The Oscar-winning screenplay was rejected outright by 38 of the agencies.

Thought for the Day: “The successful revolutionary is a statesman, the unsuccessful one a criminal.”—Erich Fromm

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MAGIC MAZE • TYPES OF HATS

B K I F C Z W U R P M J H E C
Z X U E S Q N L J T G E C Z X
V T R P P N E L A J H E C A N
L Y W V T I Y H T R P N N I L
K A M A N A P B D I G O K Z B
E C R A B O H E L Z X S A E W
U S E O T R R D V I N T R F P
O B (S O M B R E R O) R E O M L
J I G E Y I D B O A T T D A Y
X W U T S Q A C P O H S E N L
K J I I G G R U B M O H F F D C

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Balmoral	Derby	Panama	Tam
Beanie	Fez	Sombrero	Top hat
Beret	Hard hat	Stetson	Trilby
Coonskin	Homburg	Stovepipe	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

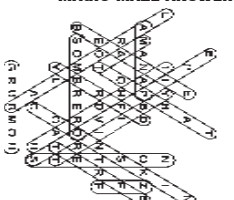
DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		15			
+		+		-				
	÷		+		10			
÷		+		×				
	×		+		17			
5		7		10				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



TYPES OF HATS

GO FIGURE ANSWER

10	7	9
17	5	4
×	+	÷
10	9	2
-	+	+
15	8	1
÷	÷	7

Top dog

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Settle an argument my friend and I are having. I think that terrier dogs are the most popular pet (among dog owners). My friend says Labs are the most popular. What's your take?—Beth C., Trenton, N.J.

DEAR BETH: The American Kennel Club recently released its registration statistics for 2011, which revealed that among registered pets, the Labrador retriever was the most popular breed in the United States. In fact, the Labrador retriever has held that top spot for 21 years. The Yorkshire terrier placed fifth among AKC registrations.

Here are the top 10 breeds for 2011-12:

1. Labrador retriever
2. German shepherd
3. Beagle
4. Golden retriever
5. Yorkshire terrier
6. Bulldog
7. Boxer
8. Poodle
9. Dachshund
10. Rottweiler

Now, this may or may not settle the argument. Unregistered dogs, of course, aren't on there, nor are many adopted shelter pets. But it's a pretty good barometer of the type of dogs, in



terms of size, behavior traits and other elements, that currently are popular among owners.

Farther down the list—more than 100 breeds were ranked—you'll find the various terrier breeds, such as the Boston terrier (No. 22) and West Highland white terrier (No. 35) to name a couple. Breed popularity tends to jump around: Bulldogs ranked No. 19 a decade ago, but today sit at No. 6.

At any rate, take the loss in stride. Make peace over a frosty beverage, and take comfort in knowing that the most popular dog for you is the one you choose (or that chooses you).

■ ■ ■

Send your questions, comments or tips to ask@pawscorner.com.

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'Surprise inside' Easter eggs

Ready, set, think Easter! Put aside chores and to-do lists for an afternoon and make these colorfully decorated “surprise inside” Easter eggs with your family.

You'll need the simplest of supplies: real eggshell halves or plastic eggs that twist open in half, bright gift-wrap tissue paper, household white glue and your children's creativity.

Come Easter morning, friends and family will anticipate cracking open these dazzling eggs because there's a special surprise inside each one!

To get started, save your eggshells. When a recipe calls for eggs, carefully crack the eggs in half, empty the contents for the recipe and rinse out the matching eggshells with soap and water. Set them aside to dry thoroughly, making sure you keep the pairs together. Or, simply use inexpensive empty plastic eggs in a variety of sizes from discount and dollar stores.

Place a small charm, toy, coins or a strip of paper with a saying, poem or kind thought inside one of the halves of each eggshell pair. For example, “For an egg-stra special friend whose sense of humor cracks me up!”

Now it's time to put Humpty Dumpty back together again. Find the matching eggshell half and tape or glue the two pieces together. Don't worry if there are gaps where small pieces of the shell may have broken.

Brush white household glue one sec-

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

tion at a time on the eggshell and place small squares of cut gift-wrap tissue paper on the glue. Overlap the tissue squares as you cover the entire egg, including the open gaps, if there are any.

Paint a final coat of glue over the tissue-covered egg. Let dry. The glue will become invisible, revealing a colorful mosaic of tissue shapes. If an egg is designated for a particular person, glue on a small nametag.

Arrange your brightly decorated eggs in an Easter basket and enjoy them as a table centerpiece this month. On Easter morning crack open the eggs to reveal the surprises!

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series “Donna's Day” is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is “Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families.”

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Distributed by King Features Synd.



GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Passover Leek and Olive Bites

Take advantage of leeks, in season in spring, with these Passover-appropriate appetizers.

- 3 leeks, each preferably 1 to 1 1/2 inches in diameter, white and pale green parts only, trimmed
- 1 tablespoon margarine or butter, cut up
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/4 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves
- Salt
- Pepper
- 15 pitted Kalamata olives, cut in half
- 30 kosher-for-Passover crackers, such as Tam Tams

1 Cut each leek crosswise into 1/2-inch-thick rounds; keep rounds intact. Place in large bowl and cover with water. Gently swish to remove any grit. Lift out leeks into colander. Repeat with fresh water at least once or until leeks are clean. Drain in colander. Pat dry.

2 In 12-inch skillet, melt margarine on medium. Add leeks in single layer. Cook 5 minutes or until browned. Turn carefully and add water, thyme, 1/8 teaspoon salt and 1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper. Heat to boiling. Cover and cook 5 minutes or until leeks are tender. Uncover and, if necessary, cook 2 minutes longer or until water evaporates. Center rings of leeks will rise; gently press back into place with back of teaspoon. Remove from heat and cool 10 minutes or until warm room temperature.

3 Top each cracker with 1 leek slice and 1 olive half. Serve immediately. Makes 30 bites (2 bites per serving).

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipefinder/.

Attic vents present a pesky problem

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.



Q: Recently, I found that sparrows had built a nest not just under the eaves of my house, but inside the crawlspace under the roof. I had pest control remove the nest, and now I plan to seal up any gaps or openings under the eaves or leading into the attic. How best do I go about this?—John C., Framingham, Mass.

A: You don't want to seal up every opening in the attic and crawlspace area, as many of the openings play an important role in maintaining the health of your home.

The spaces between the exterior and interior living area of a house—attics, crawlspaces, the gaps between the outside wall and the interior framing and drywall—make up what's known as a home's "envelope." Airflow into and out of this envelope is as important as the

other components you'll often find inside, such as insulation.

Home plans provide for open vents spaced around the exterior of the house, which allow air to flow naturally into and out of the envelope. This constantly moving air keeps the space between your living area and the outside of the house from getting too hot or too cold, and more importantly, keeps moisture from becoming a problem. Excess humidity within the envelope can, over time, cause some very expensive problems, including mold.

Of course, you don't want pests using these vents to move into your home, because they, too, can cause quite a bit of damage.

To protect the crawlspace and the health of your home, find and note all of the openings and vents in the eaves and soffits, the crawlspace and attic, and the basement or lower crawlspace of your home. Note the condition of each: is a vent in place? Is there just an opening with no protective vent? Or does the opening look like a damaged

area rather than an intentionally placed opening? Once you have that diagram, then you can purchase what you need to install proper vent covers that will enable airflow while discouraging pests, and repair any exterior damage before interior damage becomes a problem.

Even with protective measures in place, you still will need to inspect the area at least twice a year, typically spring and fall, for evidence of animals or other pests trying to make your home their home.



HOME TIP: What's the difference between eaves and soffits? Eaves sit at the edge of a sloped roof; soffits are the flat underside of a roof's overhang between the exterior wall and the eaves.

Send your questions or tips to ask@thisisahammer.com, or write *This Is a Hammer*, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Good Housekeeping



Design experts suggest a brick porch step and walkway in a herringbone pattern; an updated mailbox, door trim and knocker; and plants such as liriope or boxwood can further enhance the exterior of this home in Westwood, Kansas.

The same home in Westwood, Kansas, appears here after a makeover.
KANSAS CITY STAR/MCT



Curb appeal: Little changes make a big difference

By JAN KAYE and DOUG WELLS
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—We recently consulted on a formerly white Cape Cod-style home in the Kansas City, Mo., suburb of Westwood that had just been painted in a pale gray. The owners already have ordered replacement windows. They wanted to know what else they could do to improve their home's curb appeal. We're sharing how a few simple additions can make a big difference.

Often when we do in-home design consultations, clients ask us to help them with their home's exterior as well. Sometimes it's simply a matter of adding shrubbery and/or trees, or perhaps removing them when there's an overgrowth that detracts from the overall appearance.

Sometimes the scale of the

outdoor lighting fixtures needs to be adjusted. Or window treatments need to be replaced to give a coordinated appearance to the front of the house.

We always strive to achieve balance among the different shapes and colors that make up a home. Think of these shapes as the geometries that form the house: the squares and rectangles of the house itself, such as doors and windows, plus the cones and rounded forms of surrounding shrubbery and trees. All need to work together to create a harmonious and dramatic impression.

In looking at the Westwood house, the first thing we noticed is that it appeared plain. Black shutters and a white pediment to accent the front door and trim made a world of difference. Also, potted plants on either side of the door give a shot of color to the

neutral scheme and lend a sense of presence to the entrance.

Other changes to consider include painting the downspouts gray like the body of the house. Leaving them white calls too much attention to them. They can be prepared so that the new paint color will adhere, or new downspouts that are pre-finished in a similar gray could be installed.

Since the front porch step is

sunken on the right, replacing it with a different hardscape material, such as brick laid in an interesting herringbone pattern, would add further appeal. The brick pattern could continue down the walkway. The mailbox can be updated if the bottom trim on the storm door and the door knocker are changed (currently they're all brass).

We think the shrubbery is

already well thought out and creates a good balance with the home. However, to create a lovely side porch setting during nice weather, think about adding liriope or neatly trimmed boxwood.

Jan Kyle and Doug Wells own Kyle Wells Design (www.KyleWellsDesign.com), an interior design business.

In Celebration of His New Life

Leslie Salas DeBrum

Lovingly known as "Bole"
Born on March 06, 1960

Was called to eternal life on March 28, 2012
at the age of 52

In his new life he now joins:

Father: Captain Robert Anthony DeBrum

Mother: Felisima Salas DeBrum

Brothers: Ronald Salas DeBrum & Edmond Salas DeBrum

He is survived by:

Wife: Eloise A. Kannelly

Grandchildren: Kali, Jose, Alex, Alyssa, Christhena

Children: Christopher, Carrie, Kathleen, Jennifer

Sister in Law: Leriza S. DeBrum

Niece/Nephew: Felicia & Robert DeBrum

Sister/Brother in Law: Ida Salas DeBrum & Paul C. Camacho

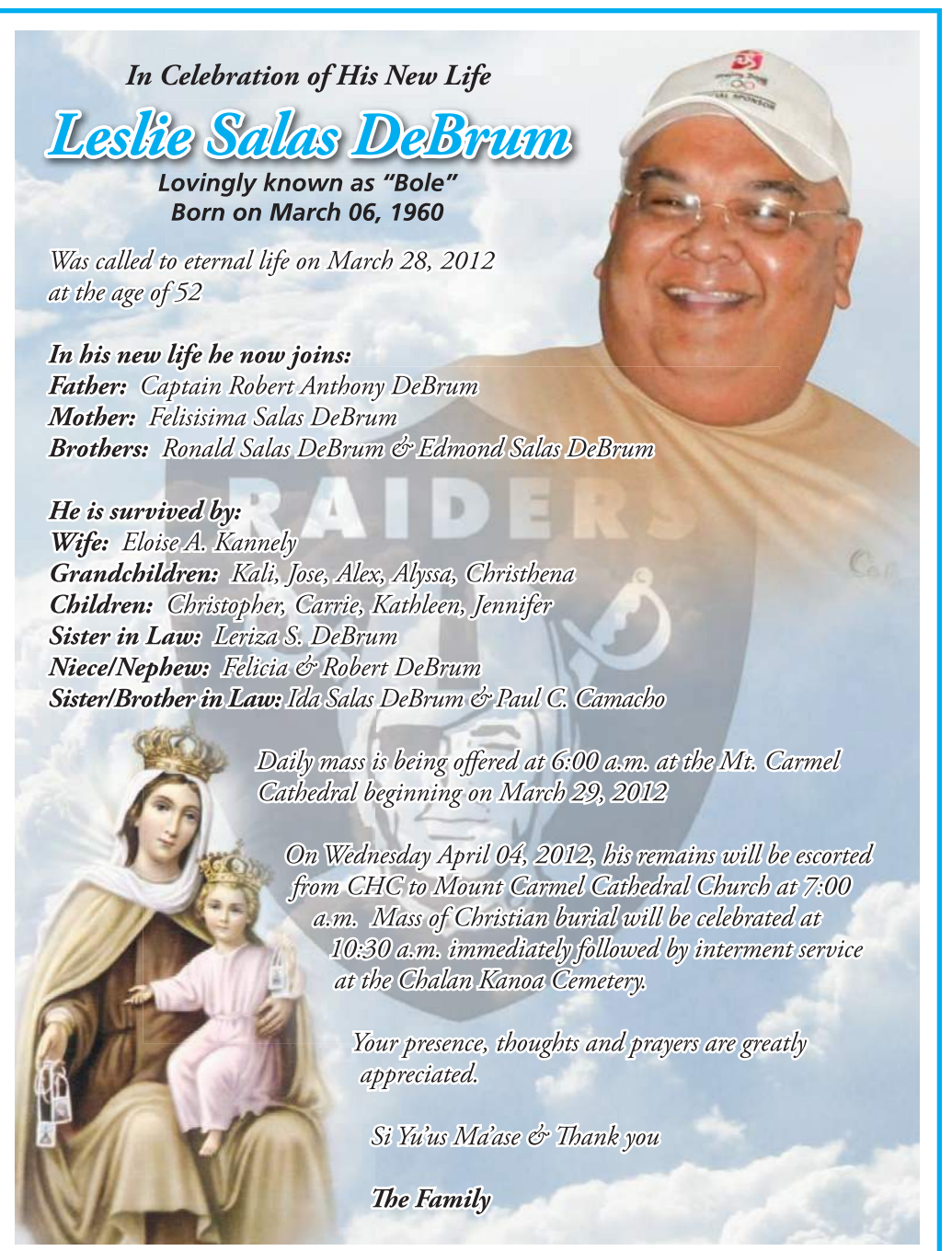
Daily mass is being offered at 6:00 a.m. at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral beginning on March 29, 2012

On Wednesday April 04, 2012, his remains will be escorted from CHC to Mount Carmel Cathedral Church at 7:00 a.m. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. immediately followed by interment service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase & Thank you

The Family



Life & Style

Unsinkable James Cameron refloats 'Titanic' in 3-D

LOS ANGELES (AP)—There was a time when James Cameron's career looked as though it might join Titanic, down in the lower depths.

Before he became king of the modern blockbuster with "Titanic" and "Avatar," Cameron teetered on an abyss as his romance set aboard the doomed ocean liner ran into production delays, cost overruns and smug talk in Hollywood that the director was out of control and going down with his extravagantly expensive \$200 million shipwreck.

Fifteen years, 11 Academy Awards and \$1.84 billion at the worldwide box office later, Cameron is re-launching "Titanic" in a 3-D version whose new earnings will close the gap on the film that eventually surpassed it as contemporary Hollywood's top-grossing flick. That would be Cameron's sci-fi epic "Avatar," with \$2.8 billion.

Fresh from his record-setting seven-mile solo ocean dive in the Mariana Trench, done while on a break from writing his two "Avatar" sequels, Cameron continues to ride a wave of success no one foresaw amid the gloomy predictions of 1997, when "Titanic" was bumped from summer to Christmas release because of production problems.

"We were the biggest idiots in Hollywood, and they already had us tried and sentenced and hung from the lamppost in the town square before they'd ever seen a foot of the film," Cameron said. "Ultimately, it proved to be a good film, and they all had to eat their words or just kind of shut up and pretend they hadn't said them. That kind of thing puts a lot of pressure on you as a filmmaker, and I interpreted it as just the pressure to be good and to make the best movie that we could."

"That's when we moved out of summer and decided, screw it, if we're going to lose a lot of money, let's at least make a good film and not compromise, not try to rush it into theaters."

Once the film opened, with solid though unremarkable revenue and reviews praising its spectacular re-creation of the ship's sinking, Cameron hoped it would stay afloat through January and maybe February so that it would have a chance to break even.

It wound up making back its money many times over, remained the No. 1 domestic box-office draw for a record 15-straight weekends through the end of March, and picked up the best picture and director prizes among its Oscar trophies. Girls went to see it again and again, pining over heart-throb Leonardo DiCaprio, who became an overnight superstar along with Kate Winslet for their shipboard romance.

Many critics found the love story sappy, but no one could deny that Cameron had made a spectacle for the ages, one that might have failed if not for the director's notoriously demanding standards. Water shoots are among the toughest on actors and crew, yet Cameron was undeterred, even after a difficult time with his previous ocean adventure, 1989's "The Abyss." "Yes, it was hard, but no one ever said it was going to be easy," Winslet said. "When all the stories started emerging about how tough it had been and Jim Cameron being mean to everybody and costs over-running, I went, wait a minute, what makes these people think they can speculate about all of this? They weren't there."

"Yes, he lost his temper, but he only ever lost his temper for really, really good reasons. Like



In this film image released by Paramount Pictures, Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet, left, are shown in a scene from the 3-D version of James Cameron's romantic epic "Titanic."

we would spend days literally setting up a shot, and if someone isn't doing his job and dumps water ten seconds too late, then we've got to start over. ... Yeah, I could understand that man getting a little (ticked) off."

Cameron's photo-realistic computer effects on "Titanic" helped propel Hollywood into the digital age, and he continued his innovations with the underwater 3-D documentaries "Ghosts of the Abyss" and "Aliens of the Deep."

It took 12 years for his next dramatic feature to hit theaters, the sci-fi sensation "Avatar," whose success turned the new novelty of digital 3-D into a frenzy for Hollywood. Studios hurtled into 3-D action shoots or,

to the dismay of fans and critics, did hasty, ugly 3-D conversions of 2-D movies that gave the format a bad rap.

As "Avatar" set the standard for movies shot in 3-D, "Titanic" may raise the bar for movies converted from 2-D. Distributors 20th Century Fox and Paramount spent \$18 million on the conversion and digital remastering, with Cameron overseeing a team of 300 people who spent 60 weeks on a frame-by-frame reconstruction to add the illusion of depth.

The results are dazzling, the images of the shipwreck now presented as though the audience is right there watching alongside.

Cameron had thought about a

3-D "Titanic" for the past decade and eventually settled on April's centennial of the 1912 shipwreck as the ideal time to re-release the film. It opens April 4, in advance of the April 14 anniversary.

In 2005, Cameron already was showing 3-D footage of the film to theater owners at a convention, where he and "Star Wars" creator George Lucas were among filmmakers pitching the notion of converting older movies.

"Titanic's a no-brainer," Cameron said. "It's a timeless film, it's visually sumptuous, it was shot in a way that's very conducive to 3-D. I've always been trying to do 3-D in a way, by moving the camera, by shooting with shorter lenses so you get deeper focus and you're

more aware of the background. All these ways that you enhance it, even when you're shooting in 2-D. So the 3-D conversion actually brought all that out."

Hollywood became sold on the idea once millions of fans started shelling out a few extra dollars to see new blockbusters in 3-D. So far, a handful of older films have come out in digital 3-D versions, among them "The Lion King," which pulled in \$94.2 million to raise its lifetime domestic haul to \$423.2 million and Lucas' "Star Wars: Episode I—The Phantom Menace," which added \$43.1 million to lift its total to \$474.2 million.

"Titanic" never played or barely showed in some big markets such as Russia and China, and fans now in their teens have only had a chance to see it on small screens, Cameron said. That gives it a good prospect to narrow some of the billion-dollar gap between its worldwide gross and that of "Avatar."

"It only needs to make, worldwide, \$160 million to break the \$2 billion mark, of which there would only be two films in that club at that point. Mine and mine," Cameron said, laughing. (In fairness to older flicks, such hits as "Gone with the Wind," "The Sound of Music" and "Star Wars" would have made more money than "Avatar" or "Titanic," adjusted for inflation.)

"The goal here is not about making money with 'Titanic.' The goal is to put the film back into cinemas so that people that either loved it back then and haven't had a chance to see it in a movie theater since can go see it. Or people who only know it from video can see it for the first time on a theater screen. I don't make movies for iPhones or tablets. I like to think that there's still a sanctity in the cinema experience."

Smithsonian showcases replica of monster snake

WASHINGTON (AP)—A prehistoric monster snake the length of a school bus that likely fed on supersize turtles and crocodiles has made its way to the Smithsonian Institution for an exhibit opening Friday.

The National Museum of Natural History is featuring a life-size replica of Titanoboa (ty-tan-uh-BOH'-ah) along with a cast of its large vertebra through January 2013. When it was alive, the snake averaged 48 feet long.

Fossils from the world's largest snake were first discovered in 2004 in a coal mine in Colombia that once was a rainforest. Eventually bones from at least 60 of the monster snakes were uncovered.

At first scientists labeled the

fossils as being vertebra from a crocodile, but a graduate student noticed there was a difference. A student interning with the Smithsonian eventually discovered the snake's skull. The specimen broke the previous record for snake length by 11 feet.

"It tells you how magical nature is," said Carlos Jaramillo, a staff scientist at the Smithsonian's Tropical Research Institute, who helped make the discovery. "Here we have it, so nature can do many things."

Scientists figure the snake weighed about 2,500 pounds. It was found near fossilized plants, giant turtles the size of a kitchen table and other creatures dating to more than 60 million years ago in the Paleocene era after the dinosaurs.

Titanoboa was related to modern boa constrictors and anacondas. Scientists say it was the world's largest predator and large enough to eat a cow or a human easily. It likely fed on large turtles or crocodiles while spending most of its time in water.

One meal could last it an entire year because of its long digestive process.

After the fossils were uncovered, it took a year to determine the snake's full length. Jason Head, a professor from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, developed a mathematical model to calculate the massive size.

Until the discovery in the coal mine, there were few opportunities to find signs of the prehistoric life of tropical rainforests because thick vegetation blocked

any archaeological expedition, said Jonathan Bloch, a paleontologist at the Florida Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida in Gainesville where scientists continue to study the full set of fossils.

"The tropics have been this closed window for so long," he said. "We had really essentially no idea what the animals look like in what should be an incredibly diverse region."

Scientists also developed a method to estimate the temperature of the climate that produced such a beast. They estimate the rainforest at that time was several degrees warmer than it is now, helping to grow much larger creatures. Their findings were first reported in 2009 in the journal Nature.



This March 22, 2012 photo provided by the Smithsonian Channel shows a life-size replica of Titanoboa, the biggest snake to have ever roamed the earth, on display in Grand Central Terminal.

On Sunday, the Smithsonian Channel will debut a new documentary about the discovery, "Titanoboa: Monster Snake."

After the Smithsonian dis-

play, the exhibit will move to the Florida Museum of Natural History, the University of Nebraska and the BioMuseo in Panama.

Judge ends Lohan's probation, gives back freedom

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lindsay Lohan's days as a criminal defendant could be over—if she can behave herself.

A judge on Thursday ended the long-running probation of the problem-prone actress in a 2007 drunken driving case after a string of violations, jail sentences and rehab stints.

The 25-year-old actress will remain on informal probation for taking a necklace without permission last year, but will no longer have a probation officer or face travel restrictions and weekly shifts cleaning up at the morgue.

Lohan, wearing a powder blue suit and black blouse, let out a sigh of relief as she left Judge Stephanie Sautner's courtroom, possibly for the last time.

"I just want to say thank you for being fair," Lohan told the judge. "It's really opened a lot of doors for me."

The judge said she wasn't going to lecture the actress, but gave her some parting advice.

"You need to live your life in a more mature way, stop the nightclubbing and focus on your work," Sautner said.

She reminded Lohan that she will remain on informal proba-



Lindsay Lohan smiles during a progress report on her probation for theft charges at Los Angeles Superior Court Thursday, March 29, 2012.

tion until May 2014 in the necklace case and could face up to 245 days in jail if she gets into trouble again.

Still, the end of probation left Lohan looking relieved. She hugged her attorney, Shawn Holley, before leaving the courtroom, and was beaming by the time she walked past the rows of cameras waiting for her outside the courthouse near Los Angeles International Airport.

Sautner's regimen of morgue duty, therapy and monthly court dates helped Lohan weather the drunken driving case. The judge opened the hearing by calling the case "endless."

Lohan is now free to focus on her career for the first time since May 2010, when she missed a

court appearance and was later jailed for failing to complete the terms of her sentence.

The "Mean Girls" star has struggled with the case and her career since the two drunken driving arrests in 2007.

She had small appearances in films and did some modeling but came nowhere near her heyday as the star of Disney films and movies aimed at teens and young adults.

Her career is already showing signs of a comeback. She is due to guest star on an upcoming episode of "Glee," recently hosted a highly rated but criticized episode of "Saturday Night Live," and is set to star as Elizabeth Taylor in a television movie.

"Lindsay is already talking about her next few projects," her

spokesman Steve Honig wrote in a statement after the hearing. "She is ready to start the next chapter in her life and get back to work and doing what she loves to do—making movies."

Lohan's tortured four-and-a-half-year effort to complete probation is not unprecedented. Actress Michelle Rodriguez took more than five years to resolve her drunken driving case, which featured many of the same elements as the Lohan saga—missed deadlines and jail sentences.

Other celebrities resolved their DUI cases much faster. Fellow female celebrities such as Paris Hilton, Nicole Richie and Khloe Kardashian were all sentenced to jail and faced multiple court hearings because they didn't properly comply with orders from a judge, but their cases have long since ended.

Lohan might still have to return to a courthouse to resolve civil issues.

Two weeks ago, a nightclub manager in Hollywood accused her of grazing him with her Porsche. The actress denied the accusation and no charges have been filed. But the matter could end up in a civil court, where Lohan is already being sued by two other people for auto-related incidents.

Three men who were in a car that Lohan commandeered and used during a chase along Pacific Coast Highway are suing her and the case is scheduled for trial later this year. The incident led to her second drunken driving arrest in 2007.

Lohan is also being sued by a woman who claims she was struck by the star's car while walking in West Hollywood, and by a former Betty Ford worker who was involved in an altercation with the actress during her three-month stay at the facility in late 2010.

Another finalist booted from 'Idol'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It wasn't a laughing matter for Heejun Han on "American Idol."

The goofy 22-year-old non-profit organizer from New York who found his way back into the judges' good graces after weeks of silly on-stage antics was eliminated from the Fox singing contest. After receiving the fewest viewer votes, Han couldn't convince the judges to save him

Thursday by reprising his serious take on Leon Russell's "A Song for You."

"Heejun, let the record show you knew this was coming yourself," said "Idol" judge Steven Tyler.

Han was joined in the bottom three by 18-year-old finalists Skylar Laine of Brandon, Miss., and Hollie Cavanaugh of McKinney, Texas. Laine was lauded by

Funeral for banjo innovator Sunday at Ryman

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The funeral for legendary bluegrass banjo artist Earl Scruggs will be Sunday in Nashville.

And with comedian and banjo player Steve Martin, one of his biggest fans, already scheduled to appear on The Academy of Country Music Awards on Sunday night, the show's producers are planning a moment to remember the pioneering musician. Scruggs died at 88 of natural causes Wednesday morning.

Flowers were laid on his Hol-

lywood Walk of Fame star Thursday morning as news of his passing continued to ripple through the music community.

"Earl Scruggs was my friend, and he was also a mentor," country and bluegrass star Ricky Skaggs said in an email. "I met him 50 years ago at the Ryman Auditorium where Bluegrass Music was birthed and ironically where Earl's funeral service will be held on Sunday. His impact on American music is immeasurable. Nearly every banjo sold from 1946 till today can be traced

the judges during Wednesday's idol-themed performances for her energetic rendition of Miranda Lambert's "Gunpowder and Lead," while Cavanaugh failed to light up Tyler and Randy Jackson with Carrie Underwood's "Jesus, Take the Wheel."

The eight remaining singers will return to the stage to perform 1980s tunes for viewer votes next Wednesday.

back to Earl Scruggs' playing style and the influence he's had on Bluegrass Music."

Scruggs' funeral will be conducted at Ryman Auditorium, once home to the Grand Ole Opry for many years. The service will begin at 2 p.m.

Visitation at the funeral home was scheduled for 3-7 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

The family has asked that donations go to the Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum in Nashville or The Earl Scruggs Center in Shelby, N.C.

Senior is eager to prevent life from going to the dogs

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 17-year-old senior with a single, very controlling mother. It's impossible to have a sit-down conversation with her because she's always working to support us. She works as a dog groomer. She's always polite to her customers and friends, but she turns into a witch when it's just her and us kids.



Dear Abby

I have never had any freedom. I go to school, come home and groom dogs, then it's the same cycle all over again. She makes me feel useless unless I'm working for her, and the truth is I think she wants me to live with her forever. She won't let me work, doesn't want me to go to college and won't give me my Social Security card or birth certificate, so I cannot get on with my life. Please help.

TEEN WHO NEEDS ADVICE

DEAR TEEN: Where is your father in all of this? If your mother doesn't want you to see your birth certificate, it may be that there's something she's afraid you will see. Her controlling behavior does seem excessive for a girl your age.

In a few months you will be an adult. If you wish to continue your education, you should talk to a counselor at school about it and inquire about scholarships, student aid and how to apply. Do not let your mother's disapproval discourage you from trying.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm dating a hard-to-find kind of man. He is charming, funny, polite and very sweet. He is my Prince Charming except for one thing. He's a racist.

I have asked him not to say demeaning things about people of other races to me because it upsets me. Most of his friends are like that, too. When he meets someone of a different race he's polite and friendly, but when he sees someone on TV, or walking on the street he makes derogatory comments.

I'm considering breaking up with him over this. Am I overly sensitive, or is this a legitimate concern?

TOO SENSITIVE IN TEXAS

DEAR TOO SENSITIVE: You're not overly sensitive. We are living in an increasingly diverse society that in years to come will only become more so. Birds of a feather tend to flock together, and so do racists. Unless you want to become increasingly isolated and surrounded only by people who think like your "Prince" does, find someone who thinks more like you do. You'll be happier in the long run.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My cousin "Carla" just had a baby. She's in her early 20s, unemployed and living in a condo her parents bought her so she won't be homeless. Her deadbeat boyfriend lives with her. They smoke pot and love to party, although Carla has abstained since she got pregnant.

When I received an invitation to her baby shower, I declined. I don't think her having a baby is a good thing, and I didn't feel comfortable celebrating this "good" news. I have not offered my opinion on the subject, but when my sister asked me why and I told her, she called me selfish. Do you think she is right?

PRINCIPLED COUSIN

DEAR PRINCIPLED COUSIN: I don't think you were selfish for sticking with your principles. Nor do I think your unemployed cousin and her deadbeat boyfriend are heading down the road of parenthood in a responsible way. Because you didn't feel you would enjoy the event, you were right to decline the invitation.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Box Office Preview: 'Hunger Games' goes back for seconds

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lionsgate's "Hunger Games" will devour the debuting "Wrath of the Titans" this weekend as it continues to gorge on box-office megabucks with an expected domestic take of at least \$60 million and a potential 10-day total approaching \$250 million by Sunday night.

The 3-D sequel to the 2010 hit "Clash of the Titans," Warner's PG-13-rated "Wrath of the Titans," starring Liam Neeson, Ralph Fiennes and Sam Worthington, should open at around \$40 million.

Relativity Media will have a PG-rated advantage this weekend with its debut of "Mirror Mirror," starring Julia Roberts, Armie Hammer and Lily Collins. Offering a solid alternative for families, visionary director Tarsem Singh's take on "Snow White" should open in the \$25 million to \$30 million range.

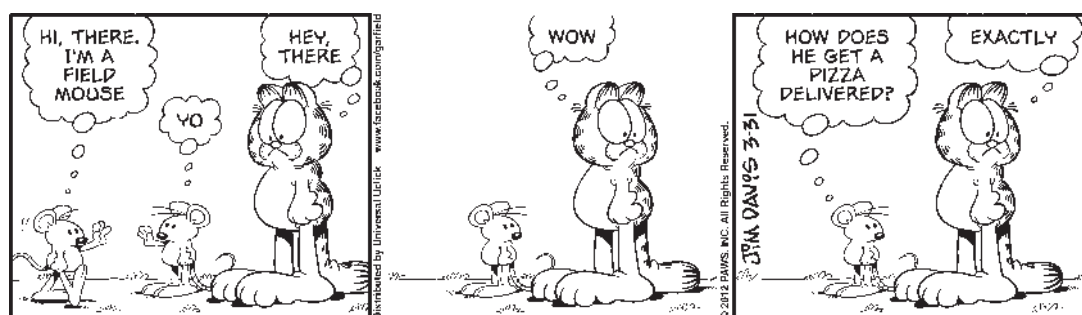
Sony's action-comedy "21 Jump Street" has maintained its distinction as the No. 1 R-rated comedy choice for moviegoers. A likely third-weekend gross of around \$12 million will bring its 17-day North American total to around \$90 million by Sunday night.

Rounding out the top five, Universal's "Dr. Seuss' The Lorax" continues to cultivate the greenery with an expected fifth weekend gross of around \$7 million. The family and eco-friendly film is closing in on the \$200 million mark.

Calvin and Hobbes

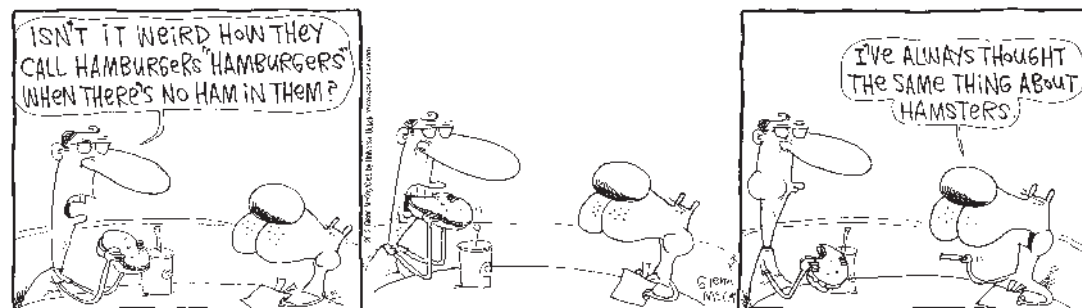
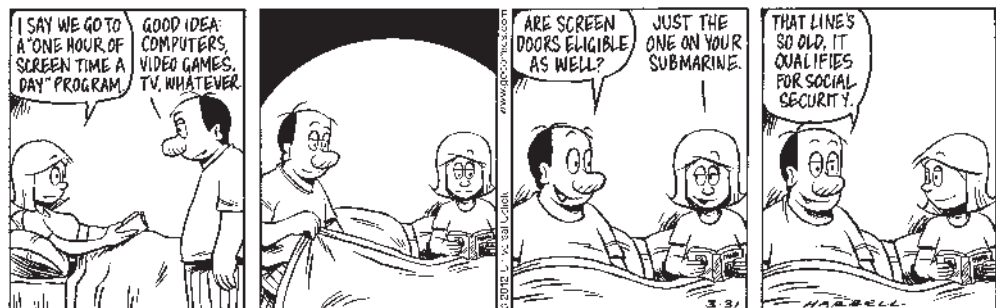
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Go off script
6 Missouri tribe
12 Lake near Syracuse
13 Grand home
14 Finally
15 Actress Cuthbert
16 Potter's oven
17 — Christian Andersen
19 Poker money
20 Corn spikes
22 Gorilla
24 Possesses
27 Capital of Qatar
29 "American —"
32 Beyond the usual
35 Unembellished
36 Goya subject
37 Jeans brand

38 Make up your mind
40 "— the word"
42 Solidify
44 Right on the map?
46 Jumble
50 Judge's decision
52 Parisian ruffian
54 Threat ending
55 Huey, Louie or Dewey
56 Toiled
57 Low cards

DOWN

1 Pro foe
2 Farmer's place
3 NPR alumna Hansen
4 Freudian topics
5 Loo
6 Tourney format
7 Tangy condiment
8 "The Greatest"
9 Accelerator
10 Reverberate
11 Membership
12 Erstwhile acorn
18 Religious retreats

21 Oklahoma city
23 ATM code
24 Height of fashion?
25 Fire
26 Baby carriage
28 Commander's assistant
30 Tramcar contents
31 Caustic solution
33 Dem.'s opponent
34 Cartesian conclusion
39 Nervous
41 Form
42 Get bigger
43 Continental coin
45 Matured
47 Sore
48 "— Funny That Way"
49 Chop
51 Sort
53 Apiece


Solution time: 27 mins.


A	P	T	Y	O	L	K	K	O	O	K
L	E	E	A	C	A	J	A	R	I	A
P	L	A	N	K	T	O	N	R	E	L
S	T	R	I	K	E	G	E	M		
		N	E	T	P	L	A	N	C	K
S	P	E	N	D	J	I	M	E	R	E
H	A	Z	Y	C	O	N	C	R	E	E
O	U	R	P	A	Y	P	R	O	W	L
P	L	A	N	E	T	S	H	E		
		U	P	S	N	E	S	T	L	E
U	S	E	R	P	L	A	N	T	A	I
R	O	E	S	A	E	R	O	L	A	V
N	U	K	E	W	I	L	L	C	R	Y

olution time: 27 mins.

A	P	T		Y	O	L	K		K	O	O	K
L	E	E		A	C	A	I		A	R	I	A
P	L	A	N	K	T	O	N		R	E	L	
S	T	R	I	K	E		G	E	M			
			N	E	T		P	L	A	N	C	K
S	P	E	N	D		J	I	M		E	R	E
H	A	Z		C	O	N		C	R	E	E	
O	U	R		P	A	Y		P	R	O	W	L
P	L	A	N	E	T		S	H	E			
			U	P	S		N	E	S	T	L	E
U	S	E	R		P	L	A	N	T	A	I	N
R	O	E	S		A	E	R	O		L	A	V
N	U	K	E		W	I	L	L		C	R	A


Yesterday's answer 3-31

 **CANCER** (*June 21-July 22*): Get involved in a pastime that allows you to use your creativity. You need an outlet that will help ease your stress and make you think.

 **SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Fix up your home. New technology will add to your entertainment and create a warm atmosphere. Shop around and get the best price possible. Do whatever you can to avoid someone finding a reason to criticize you. ★★

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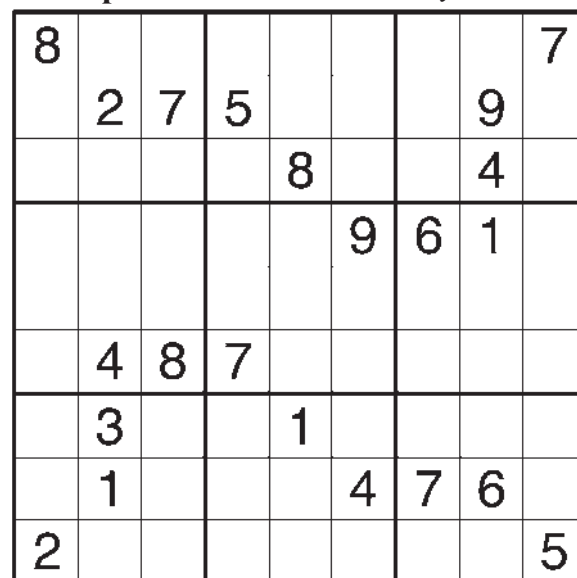


 **PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Mingle, socialize and do your best to impress. Your practical ideas, vivid imagination and unusual approach will attract attention as well as individuals interested in getting to know you better. Love is in the stars. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative, original and determined to succeed. You are curious but cautious.

Eugenia's Web sites: **eugenialast.com** for confidential consultations, **myspace.com/eugenialast** for Eugenia's blog, **astroadvice.com** for fun

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3:3

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	3	2	4	7	1	8	9	5
4	1	5	2	8	9	6	7	3
8	7	9	3	5	6	4	2	1
2	9	6	8	1	3	7	5	4
5	4	1	7	6	2	9	3	8
7	8	3	5	9	4	2	1	6
9	5	4	6	3	7	1	8	2
3	2	7	1	4	8	5	6	9
1	6	8	9	2	5	3	4	7

Difficulty Level ★★☆☆

By DAVID
QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BAROQUE MUSIC

Solution: 7 letters

M	A	T	O	C	V	F	H	N	O	R	N	A	T	E
E	O	T	R	L	L	I	N	A	M	O	D	E	R	N
D	S	N	A	U	L	A	V	O	N	O	T	E	A	O
I	E	C	T	N	M	E	S	A	O	D	W	C	M	B
E	O	E	A	E	O	P	C	S	L	S	E	A	E	M
V	B	I	L	R	V	S	E	N	I	D	S	L	A	O
A	O	E	R	I	L	E	A	T	O	C	I	A	U	R
L	T	Y	O	O	A	A	R	C	H	L	A	P	B	T
L	N	L	P	P	T	T	T	D	K	E	O	L	E	F
E	A	L	S	A	E	A	I	T	I	B	A	I	S	U
G	G	U	T	E	S	R	R	T	I	H	U	T	V	G
C	R	L	R	H	N	S	A	I	O	R	C	M	T	R
U	O	S	R	O	L	O	C	I	T	N	A	M	O	R
P	S	R	E	S	O	P	M	O	C	B	P	R	A	H
S	N	I	L	O	I	V	C	I	N	O	M	R	A	H

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2
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Arts, Bach, Bassoon, Classical, Composers, Flute, Fugue, Handel, Harmonic, Harp, Horn, Lully, Medieval, Modern, Monteverdi, Note, Oboe, Opera, Oratorio, Organ, Ornate, Palace, Partita, Passion, Purcell, Rameau, Romantic, Sackbut, Scarlatti, Solo, Sonata, Telemann, Theatre, Trombone, Trumpet, Viola, Violins, Violoncello, Vivaldi

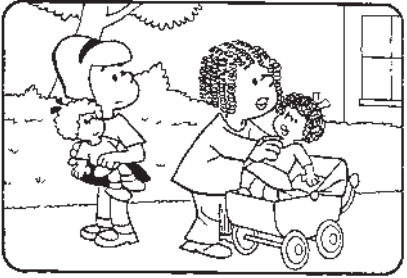
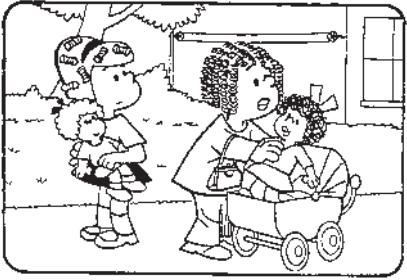
STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service. NYC.

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



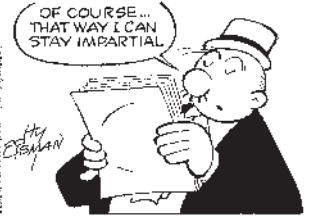
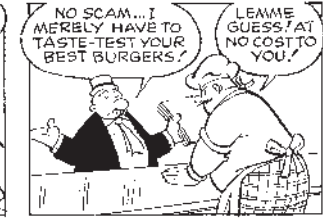
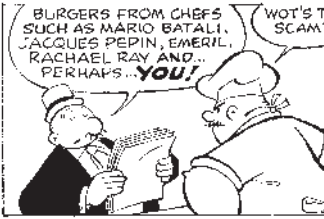
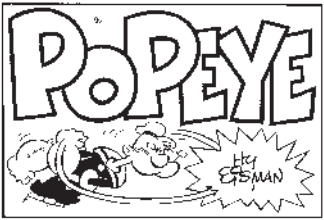
CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Wishing Well®

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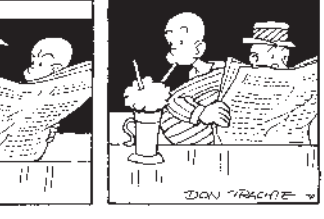
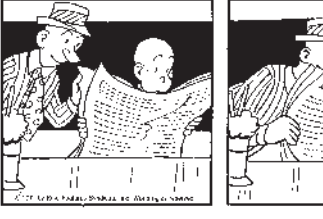
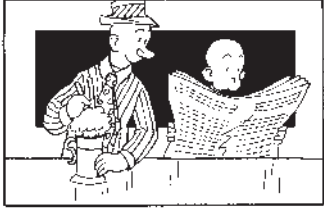
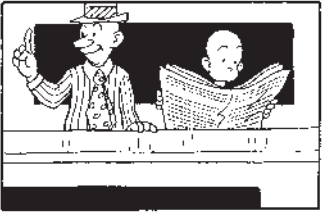
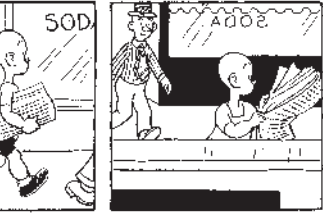
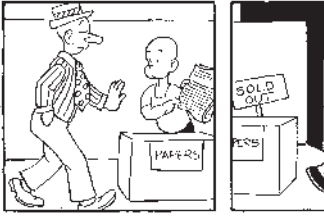
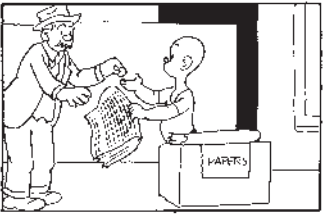
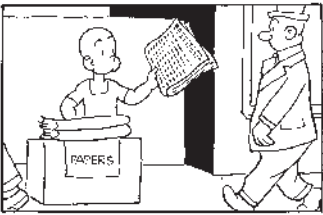
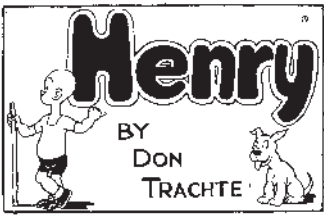
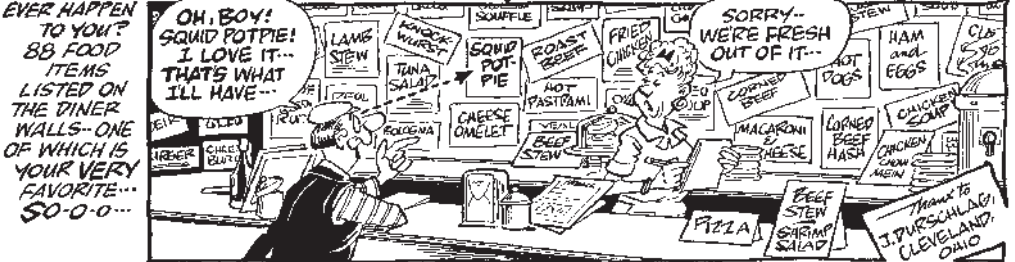
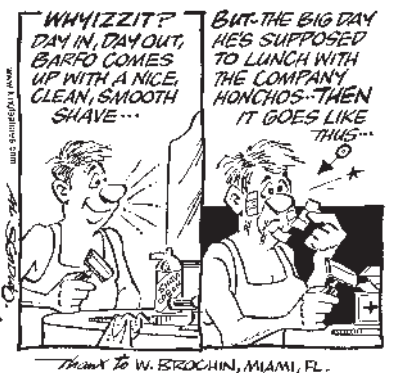
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto



Super Crossword ART WORK

ACROSS

- 1 Mushroom part
4 Demonic
8 Vatican-related
13 Heiss on the ice
18 Hasten
19 Pianist
20 Venus' sister
21 Speak one's mind
22 Art Carney role
24 Art Tatum recording of '49
26 Paper quantity
27 — the Hyena (Capp character)
29 Two — kind
30 Organ of equilibrium
31 South American capital
34 Laotian native
38 Wholly
41 Art Rooney's team
46 Palindromic dictator
47 Wing-ding
48 Croquet arena?
49 Model Carre
52 Pub orders
54 Flask
57 Zimbabwe, formerly
61 Celebratory suffix
62 Alliance
63 Tiriad of tennis
64 61, to Cicero
65 Hosp. areas
67 Stable youngster
70 Casino worker
73 Italian statesman
75 Art Garfunkel's partner
78 Travelers' aids
79 Food fish
81 Lhasa — character
82 Drink like
81 Across
83 Business abbr.
84 Conger or moray
85 "Jeepers!"
88 "Back in the —" ('68 song)
92 Composer Verdi
95 Ms. Van Tassel
97 Yeam
98 "Hook" heavy
99 Chutzpah
101 Watch pts.
103 "Ball —"
104 Art Malik

series

- 110 Annoying
113 Depart
114 Tabriz currency
115 Society column word
116 Claire or Balin
118 Bouquet
121 Kite part
124 Art Sansom cartoon
130 Art Fleming hosted it
133 Arrested
134 Hire
135 Mine feature
136 Sportscenter Berman
137 Stout
138 Boca —, FL
139 Kansas city
140 TV chef Martin

architect

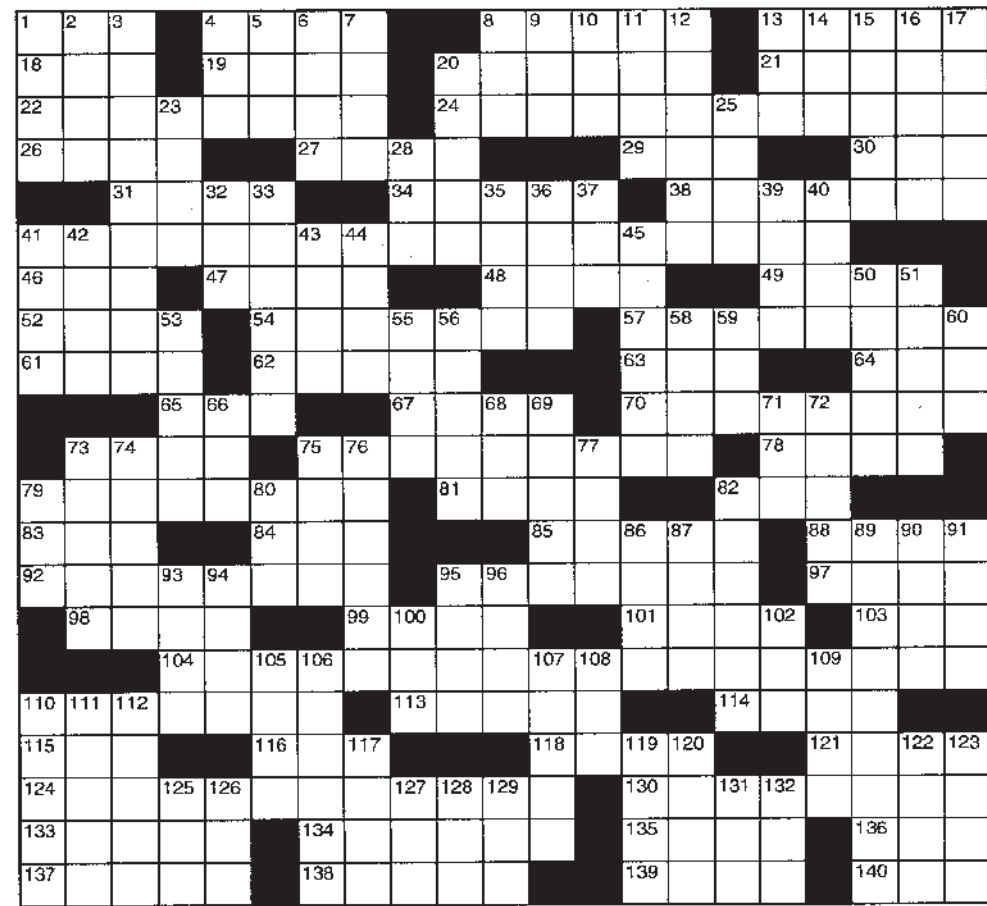
- 11 Part of A.D.
12 Permissible
13 Dovecote sound
14 Mil. address
15 More mature
16 Actor Patrick
17 Suspicious (of)
20 Reduce to smithereens
23 Skip
25 Abominate
28 Say please too often?
32 Flavor enhancer
33 Problem solver?
35 Tropical spot
36 — impasse
37 Fresh
39 Walked
40 Ferrara first family
41 Chanteuse Edith
42 Eric of "Nuns on the Run"
43 — Bator
44 Rampur royalty
45 Fermi or Caruso
50 Long Island resort
51 At — and sevens
53 Baby bird?
55 Soybean product

chemist

- 56 "— Gay"
58 It holds plenty!
59 Lennon's widow
60 Tune
66 Caviar
68 Nile
69 Composer Franz
71 Actress Thurman
72 — New Guinea
73 Frenzied
74 Take place
75 Nest noise
76 Accuse tentatively
77 "Wuthering Heights" setting
79 Russian jet
80 Agt.
82 Head
86 Fade, as a flower
87 Move like molasses
89 Academic
90 "The Young Lions" author
91 Harness part
93 Tipplers
94 Canyon sound
95 Swiss artist
96 — breve
100 Shoemaker's tool
102 Biol. or

chem.

- 105 Mideastern title
106 Decathlete
107 Tower material?
108 "Waking — Devine" ('98 film)
109 Pro — (proportionately)
110 Foreword, for short
111 Change for the better
112 New Hampshire city
117 Soprano Gluck
119 California resort
120 Try again
122 Concept
123 Actress Fontanne
125 Encore exclamation
126 "— Bad Apple" ('71 song)
127 Select, with "for"
128 — mo
129 Tons of time
131 Garage supply
132 Child welfare org.



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. FOOD & DRINK: What kind of meat is used in a Reuben sandwich?
2. MUSIC: In the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," how many maids are milking?
3. BIBLE: What was Matthew's profession before he became an apostle of Jesus?
4. AWARDS: The annual PATSY Award is given for outstanding accomplishment in what area?
5. SCIENCE: What is the most abundant element in the human body?
6. SPORTS: What ancient sport
7. POLITICS: In "Hamlet"
8. NEIL ARMSTRONG
9. LAKE MICHOIGAN
10. JACQUES CARTIER
11. MYSTIC
12. CORNED BEEF
13. TAX COLLECTOR
14. ANIMAL ACTING
15. OXYGEN

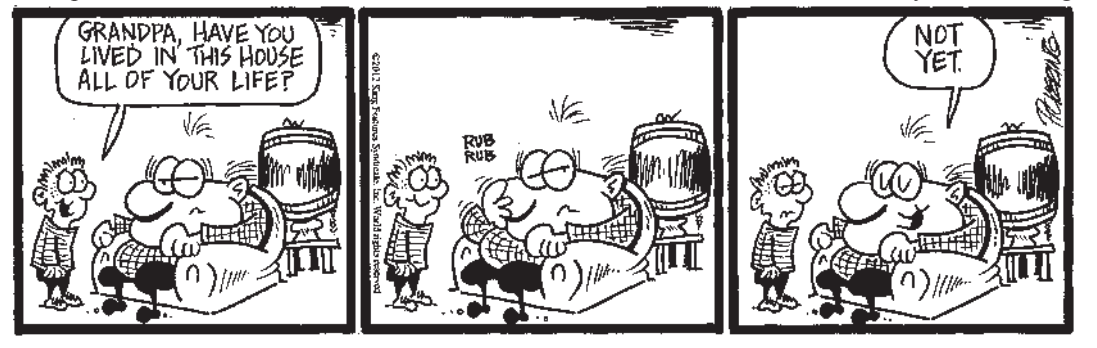
16. THEATER: What Shakespearean character said, "Neither a borrower nor a lender be"?
17. LITERATURE: Whose biography was titled "One Giant Leap"?
18. GEOGRAPHY: Which one of the Great Lakes is located entirely within the U.S. border?
19. EXPLORERS: Who discovered the St. Lawrence River?

Saturday's Answers



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Heat win finals rematch, top Dallas, 106-85



MIAMI (AP)—No fourth-quarter collapse this time against Dallas. These days, everything seems to be going right at home for the Miami Heat.

LeBron James and Chris Bosh each finished with 19 points and nine rebounds, Dwyane Wade and Udonis Haslem scored 16 apiece and the Heat extended the league's longest home winning streak this season to 15 games with a 106-85 win over the Mavericks in an NBA finals rematch on Thursday night.

Mario Chalmers scored 12 points and Norris Cole added 10 for Miami, which swept its two games with Dallas this season and snapped a two-game losing streak.

"We just worked our habits," James said. "The best thing about tonight, we didn't take another step backwards like we did the last two games. And it was good to see."

Dirk Nowitzki scored 25 for Dallas, but was held to 1-for-9 shooting in the second half. Lamar Odom had 12 for the Mavericks, who were out rebounded 44-29 and were held to only two fast-break points.

Miami outscored Dallas 26-13 in the fourth quarter to cap the win.

"You have to give them credit," Nowitzki said. "They stepped up their pressure on both ends of the floor. In the first half everything came a little too easy for us. We got some good looks, got some rolls, had everything going. Then they really picked up their pressure and we didn't have many good looks."

It was Dallas' first time playing at Miami since winning Game 6 of the NBA finals last June, a series that turned after an epic late Game 2 comeback by the Mavs in Miami and eventually became the ultimate payback—hoisting a championship trophy in Miami, five years after Wade and the Heat celebrated



Miami Heat small forward LeBron James (6) goes to the basket against the Dallas Mavericks during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Thursday, March 29, 2012.

winning their title in Dallas.

Still, Dallas insisted this trip wasn't about revisiting memories.

"Just another day at the office," Mavs owner Mark Cuban said.

Well, not an altogether friendly day at the office—particularly late.

In the fourth quarter alone, Nowitzki had the bridge of his nose bloodied, James got hit in the mouth and Wade spent a few minutes grabbing at his

right index finger in obvious discomfort. Adding to Miami's discomfort: Dallas being within 90-83 with 4:37 left after Nowitzki made four free throws in a 27-second span.

Any angst existing at that point dissipated quickly.

"I felt like we were in control," Wade said. "They got a couple things to go their way. It was just about settling down and running offense."

Simple as that. A 9-0 run sealed it for Miami, with Wade

quarterbacking the charge.

His two-handed dunk pushed the Heat lead back to double figures, then he found Bosh to set up a three-point play and set up James for a slam that pushed the lead to 99-83 with 3:03 left. The Mavs called time out, took Nowitzki and three others off the floor for the night, and the Heat slide was soon over.

Vince Carter and Brandan Wright each scored 11 for Dallas.

"It's tough," Carter said of facing the Heat. "When they're

rolling, they're rolling."

Miami's offense has sputtered for nearly a month, but the Heat scored 60 points by halftime for the first time in 11 games. James, Bosh and Wade shot 12 for 21 by halftime, and Miami's bench—Haslem and Cole, mostly—connected on 10 of 13 shots before intermission. Haslem made all four of his shots in the half and Cole was 4 for 6 after making four shots in his last seven games.

Even with all that, the lead was only 60-53 at the break, in large part because Nowitzki was 8 for 10 from the field.

Miami's offense cooled big-time in the third, the Heat shooting an abysmal 5 for 23. And the lead actually grew by a point in the period, thanks to what went on at the other end.

An 11-2 run gave the Heat their first double-digit lead, after holding Dallas without a field goal for more than 6 minutes. Miami led by as many as 13 in the third, before Odom scored Dallas' final seven points of the period to get the Mavs within 80-72 going into the final quarter.

"It was disappointing," Mavs coach Rick Carlisle said. "Our start to the third quarter was strong and then they answered back."

And now, Miami hits the road for games in Toronto on Friday and Boston on Sunday. The Heat have lost six of their last eight away from home.

"It's time for a response on the road," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "We will take this win. This is a great team win against a very good team. But we have to move on and now let's take care of business on the road."

Thunder 102, Lakers 93

In Los Angeles, Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook scored 36 points to lead the Thunder to a win over the Los Angeles Lakers, extending its NBA winning streak to five games.

Kevin Durant added 21 for the Western Conference leaders, who shot 46 percent, ending their streak of hitting 50 percent or better in their four previous games.

Andrew Bynum had 25 points and 13 rebounds for the Lakers, who have lost back-to-back games at home and are 0-2 against the Thunder this season, including a 15-point road loss last month.

Oklahoma City pulled away to open the fourth quarter with a 10-0 run that stretched its lead to 88-70. Westbrook and Durant scored four points each in the spurt that had Laker fans booing.

Pacers 93, Wizards 89

In Indianapolis, Danny Granger scored 25 points to lead Indiana past Washington.

David West had 14 points and eight rebounds for the Pacers, who bounced back from a 16-point loss at New Jersey on Wednesday.

Jordan Crawford scored 20 points and Nene had 16 points and 13 rebounds for Washington, which has lost five straight.

The Pacers had a 7-2 run late in the fourth quarter to break clear after the game was tied with 4:52 remaining.

Trail Blazers 99, Hornets 93

In Portland, LaMarcus Aldridge had 25 points and 12 rebounds as Portland pulled away from undermanned New Orleans.

Wesley Matthews added 18 points for the Trail Blazers, who are 4-4 since the dismissal of head coach Nate McMillan.

Marco Belinelli had 27 points for the Hornets, who sit in last place in the Western Conference.

Aldridge's fadeaway jumper put Portland back in front, and Raymond Felton and Nicolas Batum hit back-to-back 3-pointers to make it 97-90 with 58.9 seconds left.

The Blazers have won four straight against the Hornets.

Rain suspends first round in Houston



HUMBLE, Texas (A P) — Angel Cabrera and Carl Pettersson took advantage of early tee times to beat the rain and share the early lead in the Houston Open.

Cabrera and Pettersson shot 7-under 65 in calm conditions Thursday morning to set the pace before the first round was suspended by a thunderstorm.

Only 51 players completed play before the horn sounded at 1:27 p.m. Tournament director Steve Timms said the storm dumped about 1 1/4 inches of rain, leaving shallow ponds on many of the fairways.

"You just can't play under the rules of golf with that much casual water," Timms said.

Grounds crews fanned out across the course late in the afternoon, and Timms was optimistic that Redstone would be playable when the first round was scheduled to resume at 7:30 a.m. on Friday.

"Let it drain overnight, and I think it will be just fine," Timms said.

Ricky Barnes and Jeff Maggert completed their rounds in the morning and were one shot off the lead. Brian Harman also was 6 under, but had three holes left.

Defending champion Phil Mickelson, Fred Couples and Ernie Els, who needs a victory to qualify for the Masters next week, were playing their front nines when play was suspended.

The Houston Open became the run-up event to the Masters in 2007. Timms is hoping to finish the tournament by 5 p.m. Sunday to accommodate not only television, but also the players heading to Augusta.

"We do everything we can operationally to hit that window," Timms said.

The morning groups enjoyed sunshine and calm conditions.

Pettersson birdied four of the first six holes, then reached the par-5 eighth in two and two-putted to reach 5 under. He added birdies on Nos. 11 and 15, then found the greenside bunker with his approach on No. 17 en route to a bogey.

Pettersson missed the cut the last two weeks at Innisbrook and Bay Hill and blamed poor iron

play. He changed his setup on the range Tuesday and hit 16 of 18 greens in regulation Thursday.

"I felt confident with that, but that doesn't always relate to good play," he said. "But I felt like I was striking the ball well again, and I told myself just to play aggressive and shoot at the pins and see what happens."

The big-hitting Cabrera birdied three of the four par 5s, and rolled in a 22-foot, downhill birdie putt on the 18th hole.

"The course is perfect," Cabrera said before the storm. "It's really spectacular and it's right for making a good score."

The two-time major champion has missed the cut in four or five PGA Tour starts this year. But Charlie Epps, his Houston-based swing coach and the di-

rector of golf at Redstone, says Cabrera has rounded into form in recent weeks.

"He got off to a slow start and he's been working hard and it's coming on," Epps said. "He's been close in a couple of tournaments. It takes time."

Cabrera has played at Redstone every year since 2007, the year he won the U.S. Open. He missed the cut here in 2009, then won the Masters the following week.

Epps said Cabrera is concentrating on this week and not thinking about the Masters just yet. "He wants to play well this week, he's focused on this week," Epps said.

Barnes overcame a bout of food poisoning early in the week. He skipped the pro-am Wednesday, but felt fine Thursday morning.

"I got a lot of rest, lot of flu-

ids in me," Barnes said. "And I feel good, and I'll probably be able to get a little workout in later in the day."

The 48-year-old Maggert, who lives in Houston, is winless in 23 starts in his hometown event. The 66 on Thursday is his lowest competitive round at the Tournament Course at Redstone.

"Kind of struggled a little bit since we moved to Redstone, but hopefully this week, I can turn it around," Maggert said. "It was a fun day. I felt some confidence on the greens today, and I made a few putts early and (it) kind of carried over for the rest of the day."

Chris Kirk, who tied for second behind Mickelson last year, withdrew Thursday morning to attend to a personal matter.

The tournament was delayed by bad weather for the first time since 2009.

Final Four brings big programs to Big Easy

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Looking for those charming underdog stories? Go find the DVD from last year.

This year's Final Four brings together an ensemble of big-name schools, all saddled with their typically big-time issues—a reminder that everything in college sports is not as pure as the NCAA and its "student-athletes" would like us to believe.

In the national semifinals Saturday, Kentucky plays Louisville and Ohio State meets Kansas. All the schools have made headlines for a variety of off-the-court reasons over the last several months, including the proliferation of one-and-done players, stories about coaches in courtrooms and a handful of financial misdeeds involving recruits, players, coaches and even ticket managers.

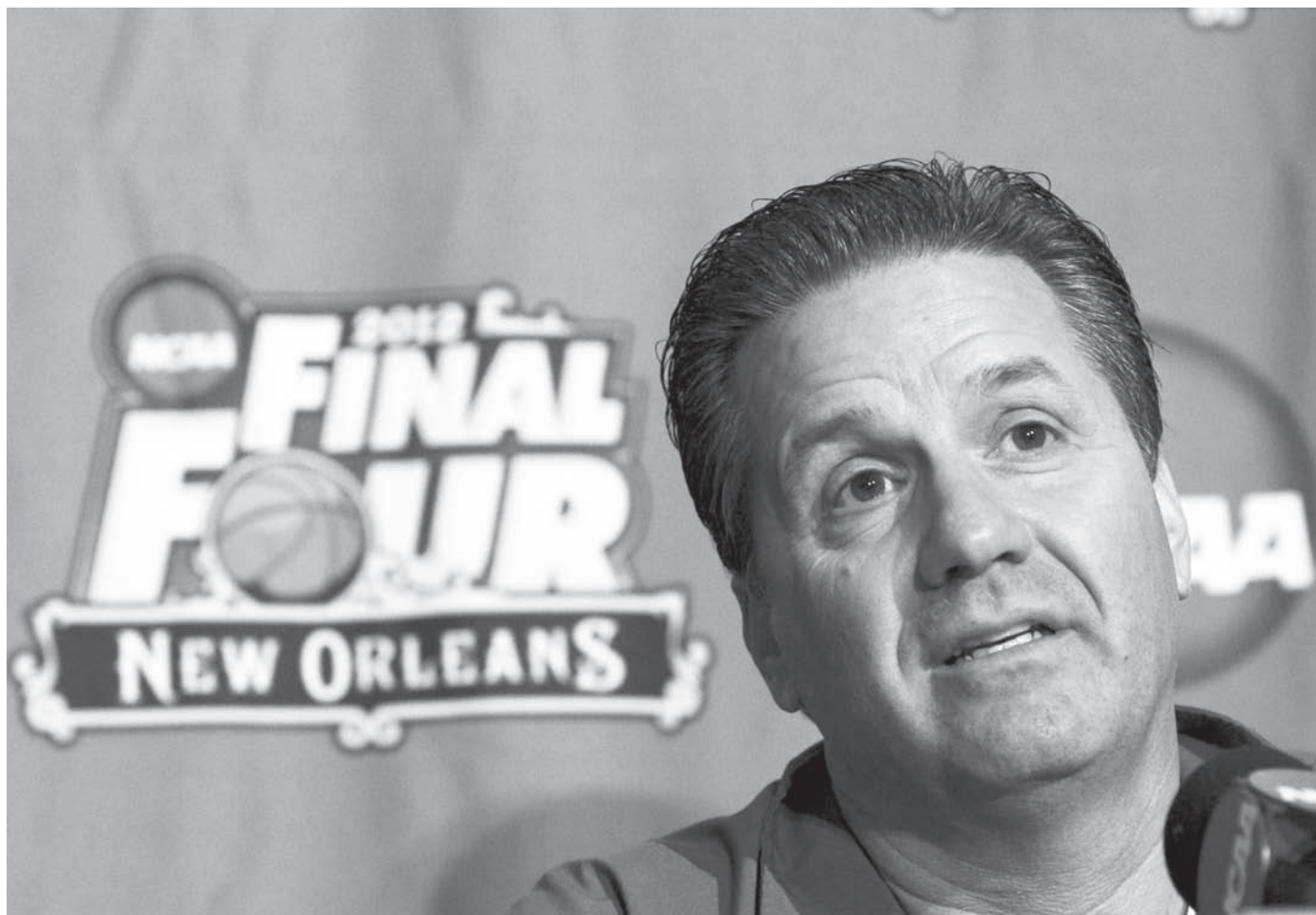
And so, while there are no little vs. big stories this year—the way tiny Butler or over-looked VCU beat the odds last season to make it to basketball's pinnacle—we're regaled with tall tales of redemption and resurrection: Teams and coaches that overcame their problems and got everyone thinking about basketball instead of the underside of a business driven by a \$10.8 billion TV contract.

"There are a lot of good players out there who are performing right now," Kentucky coach John Calipari said.

For his part, Calipari is perfecting the art of luring a player for one, maybe two seasons, to contend for a championship, then saying a guilt-free goodbye. During his more candid moments, he'll tell you he's no fan of the rule that allows players to leave college after a single year. But it's out of his hands. It's the NBA that put in the rule stating players must be 19 before they can enter the draft.

What's a coach to do?

"I think they trust that when the year is out, they're going to get the right information and be treated fairly," Calipari said. "They don't worry about it. Historically, we don't convince kids to stay who should leave. They are going to get the information,



Kentucky coach John Calipari talks to reporters during a news conference in New Orleans, Thursday, March 29, 2012. Kentucky will play Louisville in an NCAA tournament Final Four semifinal college basketball game on Saturday.

and they know that. They are just going to play basketball."

It means freshman Anthony Davis and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist, both projected as high lottery picks, probably will be gone after this season, and it's not impossible to think the rest of the starting lineup—all freshmen and sophomores—could leave, as well.

Calipari, who has had NCAA trouble at every step along his college head-coaching career, said this is a price worth paying for running a "players-first" program—with players who worry about winning first, then reap the benefits when the NBA comes calling.

While he applauds his team's unselfishness, the NCAA insists it is toughening its academic standards and isn't so concerned with the 15 players who do leave after one year, but rather the 5,500 who don't.

"I've made no secret of the fact I'd prefer to have a different model," NCAA president Mark

Emmert said. "Most people want a different model. It would be nice if that were the case, but I don't think we should blow one-and-done out of proportion and suggest this is undermining the educational mission of the NCAA."

While the NCAA spins that issue, its rules police have spent plenty of time visiting Ohio State's athletic department over the last several years. First, there was the firing of coach Jim O'Brien, who was found to have given money to a recruit, then later sued the school for wrongful termination because he got the ax before the NCAA had officially determined he'd done anything wrong.

Thad Matta cleaned up that mess and has led the Buckeyes to the Final Four twice in the last seven years. Though the basketball program has recovered nicely, the athletic department didn't learn all its lessons: The football team is on proba-

tion because of violations that happened during Jim Tressel's tenure.

The takeaway quote from that entire episode came from university president Gordon Gee, when asked if he was going to dismiss Tressel while the coach's problems were still unfolding.

"No, are you kidding?" Gee said with a laugh. "Let me be very clear. I'm just hoping the coach doesn't dismiss me."

The last year has not been the greatest for college sports, with child sex abuse allegations at Penn State and Syracuse and a number of scandals uncovered at Miami, North Carolina, Southern California, Tennessee and elsewhere.

This week, of course, is supposed to be a celebration of what's right with college sports. Yet it's hard not to ignore some tidbits that came up on the road to the Final Four:

■ Louisville spent the first two weeks of the tournament off campus, not wanting to fly back and forth to play games scheduled by the NCAA in Portland and Phoenix.

■ Last year's champion, Connecticut, isn't eligible to play in the tournament next year because of NCAA academic sanctions, though the school is appealing.

■ This year's Final Four coaches are making between \$2.5 million and \$3.8 million this season and will cash in on six-figure bonuses if they win the national title.

The NCAA hasn't been as big a player at Kansas, but that's not to say the Jayhawks are immune to corruption.

Last May, five athletic department employees and consultants got between 37 and 57 months' prison time for unlawfully selling football and basketball season tickets to ticket brokers and others, then pocketing the money.

Athletic director Lew Per-

kins saw his name sullied, and although he wasn't accused of any wrongdoing, he retired a year ahead of schedule in the wake of the scandal.

At Louisville, the NCAA didn't get involved, but Pitino certainly landed in the headlines for all the wrong reasons.

His name was trending for months while details of his extramarital affair and the ensuing extortion trial were aired out in public. Pitino's reputation was damaged, and the woman who tried to bribe him to keep the thing secret got a seven-year prison sentence.

"A lot of times the last two years I took a lot of grief from a lot of people saying a lot of things," Pitino said last week after Louisville beat Florida to make his sixth Final Four. "And I never thought in my life I could turn the other cheek and just walk on. And I did. And some of the most ugly things I've heard, I just took it inside. And today, as I look back on it, I'm real proud that you could turn the other cheek."

This week, Pitino keeps looking forward, refusing to take the bait from all those Kentucky Wildcats fans, who may never forgive the 59-year-old coach for leaving them, heading to the NBA, then coming back a few years later to coach their archrival.

The Kentucky-Louisville story line is the best thing going this week in New Orleans, for what Calipari predicts will be an epic Final Four. Without any little teams cluttering up the court, this weekend will feature the most talent, Calipari says, since 2008, when he brought Memphis and Derrick Rose to the Final against Kansas and Mario Chalmers.

Jared Sullinger (Ohio State), Thomas Robinson (Kansas) and Davis (Kentucky) are first-team AP All-Americans. Those three teams all have other players who look very much like NBA material in the near future.

"2008 was ridiculous," said Calipari, whose trip to the final later was vacated by the NCAA because of violations. "Guess what? This Final Four will be very similar to that."

Source: No decision on appeal, Saints' coach



NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Decisions are still pending on a possible appeal of Sean Payton's suspension or an interim coach should his season-long punishment be upheld, a person familiar with the situation said.

The person says Payton, general manager Mickey Loomis and their staffs were in meetings at the team's suburban headquarters Thursday and focused primarily on preparations for next month's NFL draft. The person spoke to The

Associated Press Thursday on condition of anonymity because the Saints have not announced their plans.

"Everyone is working hard, in draft meetings, et cetera ... trying to get better," the person said.

Payton's suspension in connection with the Saints' bounty scandal is slated to begin on Sunday, and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has said he has until Monday to appeal.

Payton has sought advice on the matter from his friend and retired coach Bill Parcells,

who has told several media outlets he'd consider taking the Saints' interim coaching job if Payton, his protégé, asked him to take over.

"I had plenty of opportunities to do things with different teams, and I've turned them all down," Parcells, who turns 71 in August, told the New York Daily News. "But this one is special. This guy is like family to me. And if I could help him, I would."

Payton began working with Parcells in 2003, when he was hired as an offensive assistant

with the Dallas Cowboys. The two have been close ever since and Payton, throughout his six seasons as New Orleans' head coach, has continued consulting his mentor on numerous matters, including how to handle preparations for the 2010 Super Bowl.

However, the Saints must clear up several matters before they can choose an interim coach. They must not only decide whether to appeal, but would have to see if an appeal resulted in a reduced punishment.

If Payton's punishment is

upheld, the Saints could then proceed with finding an interim coach either from their own staff or outside the organization. If the Saints choose the latter approach and Parcells becomes a top candidate, the club would still have to interview a minority candidate under the NFL's "Rooney Rule."

"I don't know how this is going to play out," Parcells, who was a Hall of Fame finalist this year, told the newspaper. "I really don't know anything about the situation. There's a lot of things going on here, and I would suspect it's going to take a while to all sort out."

There are also three strong

candidates among Saints assistants to take over as interim coach: offensive coordinator Pete Carmichael, defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo and offensive line coach Aaron Kromer. Payton expressed confidence in the abilities of his own assistants to compensate for his absence, but also has voiced some misgivings about saddling those coaches with additional responsibilities.

"We feel like we've got a number of good candidates" on the staff, Payton said earlier this week at NFL meetings in Florida. "The trick then is what it does to affect their roles that they currently have."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	28	22	.560	—
Boston	28	22	.560	—
New York	26	25	.510	2 1/2
Toronto	17	34	.333	11 1/2
New Jersey	17	35	.327	12

Southeast Division

Miami	36	13	.735	—
Orlando	32	19	.627	5
Atlanta	30	22	.577	7 1/2
Washington	11	39	.220	25 1/2
Charlotte	7	41	.146	28 1/2

Central Division

x-Chicago	41	11	.788	—
Indiana	30	20	.600	10
Milwaukee	23	27	.460	17
Detroit	18	32	.360	22
Cleveland	17	31	.354	22

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	35	14	.714	—
Memphis	27	21	.563	7 1/2
Dallas	29	23	.558	7 1/2
Houston	27	24	.529	9
New Orleans	13	38	.255	23

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	39	12	.765	—
Utah	27	24	.529	12
Denver	27	24	.529	12
Minnesota	25	27	.481	14 1/2
Portland	24	27	.471	15

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	31	20	.608	—
L.A. Clippers	29	21	.580	1 1/2
Phoenix	25	26	.490	6
Golden State	20	29	.408	10
Sacramento	17	33	.340	13 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot

Yesterday's Games

Indiana 93, Washington 89
Miami 106, Dallas 85
Portland 99, New Orleans 93
Oklahoma City 102, L.A. Lakers 93

NBA LEADERS

SCORING

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	50	501	340	1415	28.3
Durant, OKC	50	489	317	1391	27.8
James, MIA	47	464	289	1255	26.7
Love, MIN	48	424	335	1278	26.6
Westbrook, OKC	50	458	245	1210	24.2
Wade, MIA	39	342	198	895	22.9
D. Williams, NJN	47	350	225	1032	22.0
Aldridge, POR	48	414	194	1023	21.3
Nowitzki, DAL	47	350	232	987	21.0
Griffin, LAC	50	423	200	1048	21.0
Howard, ORL	51	402	262	1066	20.9
Ellis, MIL	44	346	173	917	20.8
Lee, GOL	48	378	180	936	19.5
Paul, LAC	45	316	181	874	19.4
Parker, SAN	46	344	189	891	19.4
Jefferson, UTA	46	390	109	890	19.3
J. Johnson, ATL	46	326	125	873	19.0
Thornton, SAC	43	296	132	816	19.0
Pierce, BOS	47	292	233	891	19.0
Gay, MEM	47	352	142	886	18.9

FG PERCENTAGE

	FG	FGA	PCT
Chandler, NYK	192	283	.678
Howard, ORL	402	691	.582
Bynum, LAL	334	577	.579
Gortat, PHX	345	615	.561
McGee, DEN	240	441	.544
Boozer, CHI	365	679	.538
Nash, PHX	233	434	.537
Griffin, LAC	423	789	.536
James, MIA	464	869	.534
Ibaka, OKC	192	361	.532

REBOUNDS

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	51	187	553	740	14.5
Love, MIN	48	201	466	667	13.9
Bynum, LAL	46	147	412	559	12.2

Cousins, SAC	48	207	326	533	11.1
Humphries, NJN	49	185	351	536	10.9
Griffin, LAC	50	160	381	541	10.8
Gasol, LAL	50	144	384	528	10.6
Gortat, PHX	51	138	370	508	10.0
Smith, ATL	52	106	406	512	9.8
Noah, CHI	50	184	308	492	9.8

ASSISTS

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	47	527	11.2
Rondo, BOS	40	433	10.8
Paul, LAC	45	394	8.8
Calderon, TOR	46	397	8.6
D. Williams, NJN	47	388	8.3
Rubio, MIN	41	336	8.2
Parker, SAN	46	369	8.0
Rose, CHI	34	271	8.0
Wall, WAS	49	386	7.9
Conley, MEM	46	336	7.3

HOUSTON OPEN SCORES

HUMBLE, Texas (AP)—Scores Thursday from the Houston Open, a US PGA Tour event on the 7,457-yard, par-72 Redstone Course at Redstone Golf Club:

PARTIAL FIRST ROUND

Carl Pettersson	31-34	—65
Angel Cabrera	32-33	—65
Jeff Maggert	33-33	—66
Ricky Barnes	33-33	—66
Bud Cauley	32-35	—67
Keegan Bradley	31-36	—67
James Driscoll	32-35	—67
Pat Perez	34-34	—68
Lee Westwood	34-34	—68
Johnson Wagner	35-33	—68
Steve Stricker	34-34	—68
Rickie Fowler	33-35	—68
Chad Campbell	35-34	—69
Thomas Bjorn	33-36	—69
Chris Stroud	36-33	—69
Ben Crane	35-34	—69
Y.E. Yang	34-35	—69
Hunter Mahan	36-33	—69
Justin Leonard	33-36	—69
Vaughn Taylor	36-33	—69
Boo Weekley	34-35	—69
John Mallinger	35-35	—70
Shaun Micheel	35-35	—70
John Merrick	35-35	—70
Scott Piercy	35-35	—70
Graeme McDowell	34-36	—70
Sean O'Hair	35-35	—70
Scott Verplank	34-36	—70
Marc Leishman	36-34	—70
Nathan Green	33-37	—70
Ryan Moore	35-36	—71
Omar Uresti	37-34	—71
Ryan Palmer	35-36	—71
Derek Lamely	35-36	—71
Jhonattan Vegas	35-37	—72
Stewart Cink	37-35	—72
Chris DiMarco	37-36	—73
Tag Ridings	36-37	—73
Roland Thatcher	34-39	—73
David Mathis	33-40	—73
D.A. Points	40-33	—73
Brendan Steele	35-38	—73
Andres Romero	37-36	—73
Cameron Beckman	36-38	—74
Stuart Appleby	37-37	—74
Josh Teater	37-39	—76
Nick O'Hern	38-38	—76
Anders Hansen	39-38	—77
Bob Estes	37-40	—77
Matt Bettencourt	38-40	—78
Michael Bradley	40-39	—79

LEADERBOARD

Carl Pettersson	-7	thru	18
Angel Cabrera	-7	thru	18
Ricky Barnes	-6	thru	18
Jim Herman	-6	thru	15
Jeff Maggert	-6	thru	18
James Driscoll	-5	thru	18
Keegan Bradley	-5	thru	18
Bud Cauley	-5	thru	18
Graham DeLaet	-5	thru	17
Johnson Wagner	-4	thru	18
Rickie Fowler	-4	thru	18
Steve Stricker	-4	thru	18
Steve Wheatcroft	-4	thru	16
Lee Westwood	-4	thru	18
Pat Perez	-4	thru	18

92 players were unable to finish the round due to thunderstorms

Wild Bill's 1, Inter Godfather's 0

In the third game, Wild Bill's gained a share of the lead with Tan Holdings (2-0-0 win-draw-loss record) after outclassing Inter Godfather's.

Adul Detdon posted the lone goal in the game in the 21st minute to keep Inter winless in three matches. Inter's first two games resulted in draws.

Tan Holdings 3, Shirley's FC 0

Tan Holdings notched its second win in as many games after shutting out Shirley's FC on March 21.

Panapa Peteru made twin goals for the co-leading team, while Jersh Angeles added one.

While Tan Holdings' record is still undefeated in two games, Shirley's has yet to win after three assignments.

MCDONALD'S

From Page 28

total of six hits with two walks and 10 strikeouts through four frames.

Statistical leaders

Saipan Little League also came out with its latest list of statistical leaders. It shows Junior League's K.J. Deleon Guerrero of the Jets, Senior League's Frankie Camacho of the Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces, and the Big League's Harry Nakamura of the Docomo Ol'Aces topping their respective age groups in batting.

As of Saturday, Deleon Guerrero has swung 11-for-13 for a 0.846 batting average. He is followed by Hawaiya Technologies, Inc. Ol'Aces' Terson Eina (8-10/.800)) and Mike Muna (7-12/.583), IT&E Fielders' Kainoa Wanket (7-12/.583), Ol'Aces' Jessie Brel (10-19/.526), Saipan Shipping Company Jets' Ben Maratita (7-14/.500), Bank of Saipan Red Sox's Roke Tenorio (8-16/.500) and Jerald Cabrera (9-19/.474), Jets' Peterson Rengiil (6-13/.462), and DPS Dare Program Leep Enforcers' Cedric Camacho (8-19/.421).

Run leaders include Brel (14), Ol'Aces' Verlance Secharmidal (12), Deleon Guerrero (10), Red Sox's Jhace Palacios (9) and Cedric Camacho (8), and Jets Franco Nakamura (8).

Muna, Deleon Guerrero, and Maratita all have three doubles thus far; Tenorio, Secharmidal, Franco, and Nakamura each have three triples; Muna leads in RBIs with seven ahead of Ol'Aces T.J.

CSA

From Page 28

three-run homer in the bottom half to help keep his team in front, 14-8. Another run came home from a sacrifice fly.

Ur Balls contained the Warriors to just three runs in the fifth and held strong in the final stand.

Natibu 18, X-clusive 8

Natibu tallied six runs off six hits in the first inning for a promising, 6-0, lead. J.R. Suel cranked a two-run home run Jerry Guerrero and Bruce Norita bagged RBI singles and Ned Norita lifted a sacrifice fly.

X-clusive mustered its first run in the bottom of the third frame, but Natibu nailed up six more runs to start the fourth off another six hits. Bruce Norita hit an RBI smash and Ned Norita left the yard for three runs.

They then tacked on another four runs in the fifth as Bruce Norita belted a grand slam into the trees. Ken Kalen also busted a two-RBI double in the sixth inning.

X-clusive manufactured six runs in the bottom frame, but it was too little too late as Natibu kept its run-rule margin intact.

Manelos 21, Talu Fahn 9

Manelos built a 5-1 edge after the first inning off a two-run homer by Angel Reyes and errors.

The count shifted to 7-2 off another error and an RBI single by Reyes in the second inning.

After a quiet third frame, Manelos added another run, but Talu Fahn roared

AG'S

From Page 28

to improve its record to 52-23 in the B-Fanihi division.

Seven games back in second place is its sister team Lights Out (45-30), which bested IT&E's Na'Gupu (37-38), 10-5, on the road at Naked Fish.

Meanwhile, Bammy's third-ranked DRP 2 (38-37) survived Jonny's Adven-

Dela Cruz (6), Deleon Guerrero and Maratita (6); while Franco, Nakamura, and Fielders' Jonathan Camacho have a home run apiece.

Frankie Camacho is currently batting 9 for 13 for a 0.692 average at the plate in the Senior League. He leads IT&E Fielders' Gayvan Uchau (7-11/.636), Ol'Aces' T.J. Sablan (9-15/.600), Fielders' Khob-by Kaipat (6-10/.600), Juan Santiago Jets II's Shane Deleon Guerrero (6-10/.600) and Jonathan Villagomez (6-10/.600), Natibu Tanapag Falcons' Frankie Li-eto (8-14/.571), Marianas Cable Vision-Rep. Ramon S. Basa-Frederick P. Deleon Guerrero Kagman Lions' Paul Celis (10-18/.556), Jets II's Esaiah Cruz (7-13/.538), Saiupan Shipping Company Jets I's Mathew Maeda (6-12/.500), and Ol'Aces' A.J. Lizama (8-16/.500).

Over in the Big League, Nakamura is swinging 10-for-18 for a 0.556 batting average. He leads teammates Lamar Iguel (9-19/.474) and Rocco Reyes (8-17/.471), Sen. Ralph Deleon Guerrero-Rep. Ramon S. Basa-Frederick Deleon Guerrero Kagman Lions' Richard Dela Cruz (7-15/.467), Paradise Island Animal Hospital Hustlers' Manny Flores (7-15/.467), IT&E Fielders' Carl Camacho (6-13/.462), Ol'Aces' Diego Camacho (10-22/.455), Lions' Leroy Regis (7-15/.438), Fielder's Patrick Tenorio (7-15/.438), and Ol'Aces' Keoni Lizama (8-19/.421).

Pitching leaders include Junior Red Sox's Jerald Cabrera, Senior Fielders' Keoni Kaipat, and the Big League Hustlers' Brian Camacho.

back to within a run, 7-8, off six hits and a pair of fielder's choices in the top of the fourth inning. Stanley Aldan and Nathan Bermudes bagged RBI singles and Bill Aguon a two-RBI base smash; the other run came from a walk.

However, Manelos jolted ahead with 10 runs off 10 hits to start the fifth inning. Pat Alepuyo led off with a solo homer, Reyes and Pete Tomokane busted RBI doubles, Nicko Martin bashed a two-run blast, followed by a triple and a double by Shane Mendiola and Der-rick Aughenbaugh.

Talu Fahn responded with just one run and the Manelos went on to add three runs to earn the nod.

670 Babes 9, Rookies 3

670 Babes moved ahead, 4-1, with three runs in the third inning off an error and an RBI single by Mel Benjamin who made it all the way around off a wild throw.

670 Babes broke the ice off an error in the second frame and the Rookies managed two runs from errors in the top half of the third.

670 Babes added two more runs in the fourth inning off another error and a fielder's choice before sealing the deal with three runs allowed by some extra throws in the sixth inning.

Defense played a key role in the match as the 670 Babes drew five walks in the game, but were out hit, 4-9, by the Rookies.

Man Amigos 17, G-Ballers 0

Man Amigos exploded out of the gate with 12 runs in the first inning off eight hits.

Jerry Ayuyu lifted a sacrifice fly, Julian

Cabrera holds a 2.47 earned run average (ERA) through 11 1/3 innings, giving up four earned runs off five hits for two wins.

Other notables include Fielders' Jonathan Camacho (12IP, 4ER, 11H, 1-1, 2.84 ERA), Enforcers' Caleb Takao (11.1IP, 5ER, 17H, 0-3, 3.09ERA), and Jets' Jason Villagomez (12.2IP, 7ER, 14H, 2-0, 3.87ERA).

Kaipat has allowed five earned runs off eight hits in 13 and a third innings for a 2.63 ERA and two wins; he also has 21 strikeouts.

He is followed by Rep. Antonio Sablan-Eliceo D. Cabera Hunters' Alex Monkeya (10IP, 4ER, 7H, 1-0, 2.80ERA); Falcons' Adolfo Roppul (10IP, 5ER, 5H, 2-0, 3.50ERA); Lions' Justin Reyes (13.2IP, 7ER, 18H, 0-2, 3.59ERA); and Enforcers' Austin Piteg (12IP, 7ER, 24H, 0-2, 4.08ERA).

Notably, Hunters' Jonah Flores has 17 strikeouts, while Jets I's Allen Cabrera and Enforcers' Lofton Edward each have 12 strikeouts.

Camacho has allowed five earned runs in 15 2/3 innings off 13 hits for an ERA of 2.23 and a win; he also has 26 strikeouts.

He fronts Lions' Leroy Regis (24.1IP, 15ER, 25H, 0-5, 4.32ERA) and Fielders' Nathan Guerrero (14.1IP, 10ER, 21H, 1-2, 4.88ERA).

Notably, Hustlers' Guerrero has 20 strikeouts and Regis 19. Kevin Villagomez also has 17, while Ol'Aces' Nakamura and Hunters' Joseph Palacios has 16 and 15, respectively.

Camacho bagged an RBI single, Peter Sablan, Ben Jones, and James Fleming delivered two-RBI singles, and Roy Celis capped it off with a three-run bomb; one other run came from an error.

G-Ballers swung under the ball in the bottom frame and Man Amigos added four runs in the second inning from a base hit by Jess Guerrero and a three-run homer by Jones.

G-Ballers left runners on the corners in the bottom half and Man Amigos' Ayuyu hammered a solo shot in the top half of the third before securing the early decision. All 12 Man Amigos scored. Celis, Sablan, Carl Hocog, Guerrero, and Jones all touched the plate twice.

Winning pitcher John Terlaje allowed just two hits and one walk through four scoreless innings.

Elias 10, Six Pack 8

Elias worked out an early 2-1 lead in the opening frame from a leadoff homer by Mike Cruz and a RBI base knock by Jordan Tagabuel.

Six Pack briefly took control, 3-2, in the second inning from a two-RBI double by Robert Repeki and added another in the top of the third off base smash by D.J. Omar, but Elias reclaimed the lead, 7-4, in the bottom frame with a couple of long balls by Tagabuel (three runs) and Myron Sablan (two runs).

Then the count shifted to 9-6 as both teams added a pair of runs in the fourth inning.

Six Pack scratched and clawed to get back in the game and managed runs in the fifth and sixth innings, but Elias held on strong for the win.

Elias' Cruz batted 3-for-3 with two RBIs and two runs.

in the division.

Water Front (41-34) sits five games behind in second place after downing Jonny's Retssa Sakude! II (35-40), 10-5, in a home match, and Joe's Steakhouse's Skore



Heat win finals
rematch, top
Dallas, 106-85

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Final Four brings
big programs to
Big Easy

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

McDonald's breaks into win column

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

McDonald's finally had its first taste of victory, 15-10, over the Bank of Saipan Red Sox on Sunday as the 2012 Saipan Little League Major division continued at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

In other results, DPS Dare Program JPO Enforcers' Pedro Maratita cranked out two home runs in Tuesday's 13-3 victory over the Natibu Sports Association Tanapag Braves.

McDonald's 15, Red Sox 10

McDonald's started behind, 4-5, after the opening frame, but managed to lock the match at 7-all in the second inning.

Red Sox's Jonah Reyes reached on a double and was driven home with a single by Delin Ruesora. Chabo Deleon Guerrero doubled him home and was then brought to the plate with a base rip by Greg Sablan. Sablan later stole home before another run

made it around off errors in the first inning.

McDonald's answered with a pair of doubles from Spencer Dickinson (two RBIs) and Wensin Namelo (an RBI) and the fourth run scored off an error.

Then in the second inning the Red Sox's Tindin Leon Guerrero cracked a RBI single and scored off a wild pitch, while McDonald's mustered three runs off just one hit and a lot of hustle.

The Red Sox's engine stalled at the start of the third inning and McDonald's gashed them with seven runs in the bottom frame.

After an error and a hit to start the frame, McDonald's drew three walks, which set up a two-RBI double by A.J. Sanchez and



Natibu Tanapag Braves catcher Angel Iguel holds on tight as he collides with an opposing DPS Dare Program Enforcers player at the plate in Tuesday's Major League matchup held at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

an RBI double by Perry Tenorio.

The Red Sox came up empty again in the fourth and McDonald's added a run off another error in the top of the fifth inning.

The Red Sox tried to mount a comeback, but were held to three runs in its final stand.

Winning pitcher Dickinson allowed six earned runs off eight hits and three walks with eight strikeouts in five innings.

Enforcers 13, Braves 3

The Comets took an early, 3-0, lead in the first inning and piled on six more runs in the second frame off a triple by Jimmy Laniyo and a pair of doubles by Kier Agda and Shakobe Rangamar.

The Comets then added three more runs in the third inning off four hits and added one more for good measure in the fourth from Korey Leon who hustled his way and later stole the plate.

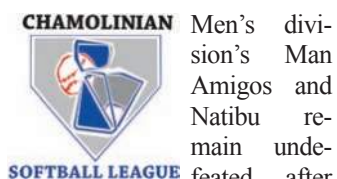
Laniyo batted 3-for-3 with two RBIs and two runs.

Winning pitcher Joaquin Saralu gave up three earned runs, all in the last inning, off a

See MCDONALD'S on Page 27

Frontrunners remain unscathed in CSA

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Men's division's Man Amigos and Natibu remain undefeated after this week's Chamolinian Softball Association 2012 Budweiser Softball League matches held at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

Natibu soundly defeated Xclusive (2-2), 18-8, for its fourth win on Wednesday, Man Amigos skunked G-Ballers (2-2), 17-0, for its third consecutive victory back on Monday.

In other results, Ur Balls (3-1) defeated the Warriors (1-3), 15-11, and Manelos (3-1) routed Talu Fahn (1-4), 21-9, on Wednesday, while on Monday Elias (1-1) survived Six Pack (1-2), 10-8, and women division's 670 Babes (1-2) downed the Rookies (0-2), 9-3, to notch its first win of the season.

The rest of the men's field include Berdax (2-1), Gagu Eyes (2-2), Saipal (2-2), Familia (2-2), and Managaha (0-4).

The women's standings, meanwhile, have Check It Out (3-0) lording it over the three-team division against Sakudi (2-2) and Enamo Meta (1-1).



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

670 Babes shortstop Mel Benjamin fires over to first base in Monday's Chamolinian Softball Association women division's matchup against the Rookies at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

Ur Balls 15, Warriors 11

Ur Balls' Byron Kaipat bludgeoned a two-run homer in the first inning complemented by a pair of solo blasts from Audie Maratita and Kyle Kaipat.

The Warriors came back to tie the match at 4-all with home runs by Marley and Sidney (three RBIs) in the top of the second, but Ur Balls obliged

with five more runs off six hits in the bottom frame; Kaipat hit a two-RBI single, Shane Igisiar an RBI double, and Norman Angui and Maratita had RBI singles.

The count shifted to 10-7 after three frames and Warriors' Mike Pangelinan added a run with a long ball to start the fourth, but Ur Balls' Byron Kaipat jacked a

See CSA on Page 27

Matansa routs Shirley's in men's league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Matansa Football Club recovered from a so-so performance in the first two weeks of the 2012 NMIFA Men's Spring League after clobbering Shirley's FC, 7-1, last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Matansa, which had a draw and loss in its first two match-

es, drew a hat-trick from Dhiraj Chhetri to prevail in the battle of winless teams. Shirley's absorbed its third loss in as many games.

Aji Mandampala, Rangit Bairagi, and Kamrul contributed one goal apiece and Matansa got a goal off Shirley's error late in the first half for a 5-1 lead at the break. Taro Goto nailed Shirley's only goal in the match at the 12:33 mark, cutting Matansa's lead to two, 1-3. Man-

dampala, Bairagi, and Chhetri scored the first three goals for Matansa and the latter added one more past the halfway mark of the first half.

KFAS 3, SKY 3

In the second game at the Oleai pitch, Korean Football Association on Saipan and SKY engaged in a draw.

Young Ha Hwang and Guang Lin Li scored in the 17th and

See MATANSA on Page 27

AG's Sakude, DJ Fish, Good Guys II in helm

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



AG's Sakude of Jonny's Bar & Grill, SOS Bar & Grill's DJ Fish, and VFW Post 3457's Good Guys II are the current frontrunners of their respective Saipan Electronic Dart Association divisions following the conclusion of last week's matchups.

Last Friday, AG's Sakude defeated its sister-team DPS Bad Boyz (26-49), 9-6, in a road draw at Jonny's to improve its win-loss record to 51-24 in the Inter-Government League.

Naked Fish Bar & Grill's second-ranked Team CUC (47-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AG's Sakude, seen here in a file photo, defeated sister team DPS Bad Boyz, 9-6, at Jonny's Bar & Grill last Friday to maintain control of SEDA's Inter-Government division.

28), meanwhile, topped NMC Proa (26-49), 9-6, at home in Bammy's Restaurant Bar & Grill.

Notables included a pair of High In 160s by AG's

Sakude's Jayson John and George Sablan.

On Thursday, B-Fanihi's DJ Fish 52-23 defeated VFW's Duty Gunz (32-43), 10-5, at home

See AG'S on Page 27